

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LV.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 9th January, the wife of C. A. O. BUYZEE, of Malacca, of a daughter.

On the 11th January, at 63A, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of Wm. KING, of a son.

On the 15th January, at Shanghai, the wife of ANDREW BURT, M.E., F.G.S., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 16th January, at H.B.M. Consulate, and afterwards at the Union Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. A. M. Craig, M.A., of Kelso, Scotland, assisted by the Rev. C. E. Darwent, M.A., ARNOLD, eldest son of ALEXANDER HOTSON, at one time of Rangoon and now of Riverside, California, to KATE, eldest surviving daughter of the late WILLIAM HYDE LAY, H.B.M. Consul, Chefoo.

On the 20th January, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Wanchai, by the Rev. C. Bone, ROBERT, fourth son of JOHN WALPOLE, of the Woodlands, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, England, to ELLEN, the only daughter of the late H. J. FAUNCH, of Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On the 11th January, at No. 14, Wilkie Road, Singapore, JOHN EUGENE GEARY, aged 69 years.

On the 12th January, at 84, Yangtze-poo Road, Shanghai, of scarlet fever, KATHLEEN EMILY CAMERON, eldest child of W. M. and Mrs. CAMERON, aged five years and five months.

On the 13th January, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, GEORGE HOWARD, Chief Inspector of the Municipal Police, aged 54 years, after 28 years' service in the Shanghai Municipal Police Force.

On the 14th January, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, of scarlet fever, CHRISTINA, eldest daughter of WILLIAM and MARGARET TAYLOR (of Messrs. Farnham, Boyd & Co.), aged 7 years.

On the 15th January, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, ROBERT SIDNEY HARVEY, aged 55 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 20th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, on the 19th January (30 days); the Canadian mail of the 30th December arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 21st January (22 days); the German mail of the 23rd December arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Hamburg*, on the 24th January (32 days); the American mail of the 28th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 25th January (28 days); and the French mail of the 27th December arrived, per M. M. steamer *Salazie*, on the 26th January (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Chief Engineer and staff of the intended Yueh-Hau Canton-Hankow railway will leave the United States for China next month.

The Marquis of Lansdowne said that a reduction of British troops in China would depend on the condition of the country and the action of the other Powers.

The correspondent of the *Telegraph* at Washington states that President Roosevelt has ordered the return to China of \$376,000, the value of the silver seized by American marines at Tientsin.

A Seoul despatch of the 11th inst. states that the loan by the Corean Government is expected to be a failure owing to the opposition of Japan, Great Britain, and other Powers. The so-called Corean Company is stated to be a small concern with a capital of only 100,000 yen and the representative of the concern is only a mere speculator.

A Seoul despatch says:—Russia has constructed telegraph communication between Usuri and Keiko, crossing over the Tomanko with a view to connecting it with the Corean telegraph system. The Corean Government addressed an official note to the Russian Minister to Seoul and ordered him to suspend work until the Treaty about the affair is satisfactorily concluded.

A London despatch dated the 10th inst. to the *Jiji* states that in connection with the dispute between Russia and the United States concerning Newchwang, Mr. Hay, U. S. Secretary of State, has had a prolonged interview with Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador. The same telegram states that Great Britain and the United States have requested Russia to withdraw her troops from Newchwang.

Japanese papers say that the suspicious movements of the Italian squadron lately reported in Chinese waters, which it was suggested at the time might mean another "lease," have culminated in a renewed demand for Sanmun Bay. The Italian Minister visited the Foreign Office at Peking on the 1st inst. and made a formal request, but it was immediately rejected by the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, who issued an official note to that effect.

In connection with the recent case of piracy on the West River above Shiu-hing—when the steam-launch *Wong Fat*, and a passenger-boat which she was towing were boarded by twelve pirates, the launch ultimately being seized by six of the pirates to enable them to escape from a guard-boat that had surprised them—we learn that the two members of the launch's crew who were held as hostages by the pirates to secure the safety of six of their number who fell into the hands of the guard-boat's crew, have been released.

Foreign quarters within the Imperial city at Peking are only four. One is the Roman Cathedral—the Pei-tang—on the west side. A second is the Imperial University, where is Dr. Martin, near the north-east end. The other two are Bishop Scott's mission and the rented house of Dr. Morrison, the *Times* correspondent, in the south-east corner, near the former hole in the wall made by the British, north of the British Legation. These latter persons, it is said, living in rented houses, will move out to other and more convenient quarters; Reuter's agent, who has been occupying a house in the same quarter, has already moved.

A correspondent, writing from Peking to a Shanghai native paper, says:—According to a promise made to the Chinese Plenipotentiaries by the Russian Minister, M. Lesssar, a portion of the Russian garrison in Manchuria ought to have been withdrawn as soon as the Court had returned to Peking. It is over a week now since the Court's arrival at Peking and yet there are as many Russian soldiers in Manchuria as ever; consequently the Chinese Plenipotentiaries visited the Russian Minister, yesterday, to remind him of his promise, but to their great surprise the Russian Minister told them, in reply, that he could not do anything in the matter until he had heard from his Government.

The Washington correspondent of a Manila paper says:—A proposal has been submitted to Congress for the government of the Philippine Islands, which is suggested should be inaugurated in the year 1904. This proposed government is to contain a Governor, assisted by a Council of Secretaries, all of whom will be nominated by the President of the United States, who will remain in office for a period of four years. It is also suggested that there be a Supreme Chamber, in which one hundred Filipino representatives will have right to a seat, and will be nominated by the President and by a popular chamber, which, in turn, will be elected by universal suffrage. It is also proposed that the Philippines be represented by two representative Commissioners in Washington.

It is stated from a reliable source in the North that the Empress Dowager has sent special secret instructions from Peking to the provincial authorities of Honan, at Kaifeng, "carefully and reverentially to keep the Imperial Palaces built in that city in proper repair, as the Court may require them at any time during its travels." What led the Empress Dowager to send such an order to Kaifeng, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, time will certainly show, and if recent news to hand is to be depended upon, one need feel no surprise if this happens sooner than we expect. Meanwhile the Taiyuanfu correspondent of our Shanghai contemporary writes:—A good many new buildings have been erected at the back of the Governor's yamen, and hence there is a rumour that the Empress Dowager intends to come secretly to reside here, but this is scarcely credible.

THE QUESTION OF THE EMPEROR DOWAGER.

(*Daily Press*, 18th January.)

The Emperor of China has at last arrived again at Peking and with him the Dowager Tsz'hi; the former is reported to be well and strong, and the latter, somewhat doubtful of the reception she might meet with, to have seen the policy of adopting the external signs at least of ordinary politeness. The Emperor clearly felt a heavy load removed off his shoulders, and the latter, for so long removed from those indulgences to which she was accustomed in her splendid seclusion at Peking before she had stirred up the avenging furies, will possibly come to the conclusion that after all they were but vanity and vexation of spirit. The Dowager has, however, by no means exhausted her talents for intrigue, and the last *on dit* is that she has resolved on marrying Prince Chun to the daughter of her favourite Yung Lu, whom the flatterers of both would make out to be her "nephew." Beyond the fact that Yung Lu is a Manchu, and in some indirect way connected with the Imperial family, there does not seem any reason for this honour, except undiluted favouritism, while the fiction of his being a nephew is as much true as most of the other stories of this scion of unknown stock, who has at various times been credited with being the "aunt" of every one of the Imperial clan who has from time to time arrived at distinction in the Capital, from the Emperor himself downwards. Of course to the outer world, so far as Prince Chun is concerned, it makes very little difference to whom he may be married. Unless in very rare instances, the wife in China has only the most insignificant power in influencing her husband for good or evil. The ill effect of such a connection is that it will afford her father a factitious claim to consideration, which at the present moment he does not enjoy. The happy family is, however, re-installed in the Imperial Palace, and it remains to be seen what the restoration is to bring about. During the long sojourn of the Court in the provinces it was to a certain extent under the light of publicity; however carefully precautions were taken, the comparatively narrow walls of the temporary residence in Hsian-fu must have had their effect in restraining that feeling of personal irresponsibility which induced the Dowager to carry on unchecked her intrigues against the Emperor. At Hsian and still more on the long road homewards, the necessities of the case compelled her to display due deference towards the person of the Emperor. It was evidently this feeling of restraint in the light of publicity that induced the Empress Dowager to adopt those outward signs of politeness which marked her entrance; the question of more than ordinary importance at the moment is: How long will these good resolutions last? The circumstances of the case have resulted in one or two wholesome innovations, which, in the face of the exalted respect for precedent, at once one of the supports as well as one of the weaknesses of the governmental system of China, may in the near future have a wholesome effect. During the long sojourn of the Court beyond the Palace it was naturally impossible to preserve towards the Imperial person the semi-religious seclusion which has grown to be the bane of the dynasty. It was fortunately found impossible on the entrance into Peking to restore the old seclusion, so it came to pass that, while the foreign element could not be excluded, some remnant of reason relaxed the old, or rather

comparatively recent, regulations regarding the sight by his subjects of the Imperial Majesty. Doubtless the personal influence of the Emperor himself had something to do with this, but there is little doubt that the experiment, even in the modified form in which it was carried out, has been conducive of good in the relations of Emperor and subject. The fact that both Emperor and Dowager were by circumstances practically compelled to travel by the railway the latter portion of their journey, was a useful lesson of the futility of the Dowager's efforts to get rid of the hateful thing, and the Emperor's thoughtful civility in thanking the conductor of the train, who had arranged the trip with the least amount of personal inconvenience possible, doubtless impelled the Dowager to follow a lead which she could not without insulting the Emperor and all the Powers refuse. Once driven to break the ice by whatever means, it, however, redounds to the Dowager's credit that she carried out the innovation gracefully to the end and returned with politeness the salutations of the foreign spectators. Doubtless in this the example of Prince Chun had some effect. Sent on a difficult and embarrassing mission, the Prince conducted himself not only with inborn dignity but with a natural grace that has effectually won for him respect and friendship all round. That notwithstanding the nature of his mission he had to suffer no indignity throughout was largely due to the Prince's own urbanity of manner, and this lesson was possibly not altogether thrown away when an almost equally embarrassing pageant had to be carried out by the returning Court. View it as we may, the return of the Emperor to his Palace was not an occasion of unmixed triumph, and the circumstances under which it was deserted less than eighteen months previously must have often suggested themselves to both the Emperor and the Dowager. Much remains to be done in the new state of affairs. If the Emperor has sufficient power to introduce order in his own household and honourably fulfil his engagements, the blow, heavy as it is, that has fallen on the Manchu House may yet be retrieved: China is yet intact, and with wise counsels may yet preserve even Manchuria, which in her fatuity and through the intrigues of two unworthy counsellors, Li Hung-chang and Yung Lu, she had almost irretrievably lost. She can only do this by invoking the honourable assistance of her neighbours almost alienated by her own misdeeds; and she would do well to bear in mind that any return of the unworthy and shortsighted policy which led to the flight of the Court from Peking will alienate from her the rising good wishes of the nations. In such a case the first successful attempt of any one of the Powers to appropriate any portion of the Imperial territory will be followed by a certain partition of the rest. The effect of the endeavour of last year to put the Empire in commission by the great Powers was hardly a success, and the Powers themselves have been the first to acknowledge it. Gladly would they see the Court at Peking restored to its ancient prestige: it was on this account that the return of the Emperor was cordially welcomed the other day, but in return for thus permitting bygones to be bygones it is not too much to expect that the returned Court will be strong enough to restore the external signs at least of order; and that the Emperor will once more take the place demanded by the dignity no less than by the well-being of the State. This is the Emperor's duty towards his subjects, and it is to be hoped that the recent weak connivance at a condition of

affairs neither creditable to himself nor profitable for the Empire will be made to cease. The foreign Powers do not desire any such indignity to befall the Dowager Tsz'hi as she inflicted on the Imperial person, but it would be well that this personage should be made to feel that any other than formal association with Imperial State is detrimental to the best interests of the country.

THE HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART'S APPOINTMENT TO WEIHAIWEI.

(*Daily Press*, 21st January.)

The news has reached this Colony of an appointment which, while it robs Hongkong of one of its leading administrators, at the same time brings well merited advancement to an official of whom a very high opinion is held locally. The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, has been appointed to the Commissionership of the new British colony of Weihaiwei. He will not, we believe, actually take up the appointment for another two months' time, and in the meantime will continue to give the benefit of his services to Hongkong. Mr. STEWART LOCKHART's very numerous friends here will receive the news of his promotion with great pleasure. As an official there have been, perhaps necessarily under a Crown Colony system of government, not a few occasions when he has come in conflict with the desires of local non-official residents, but nevertheless throughout his twenty-two years' connection with Hongkong he has succeeded in inspiring the utmost respect for his character and attainments. His transference to Weihaiwei not only indicates that the Colonial Office is alive to his merits, but is also a guarantee that in the future the Colony to which he is to be removed is to receive more adequate attention than has hitherto been vouchsafed to it. Those people, therefore, who have anxiously watched the policy of the British Government toward its latest offshoot in China will feel reassured at the news of the first appointment to the office of Commissioner.

With regard to the vacancy which will be created in the local official ranks by the Hon. J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART's promotion, it is obvious that there will be no little difficulty in filling it. Hongkong, as everything goes to prove, is a place rapidly growing in size and importance. It becomes in consequence increasingly urgent that those chiefly concerned in its administration should be suitable men for their posts and that no pains should be spared to secure the best possible occupants for office. Hongkong is now, moreover, passing through a crisis in its history. On the success or failure of the sanitary measures at present being taken, or on the point of being taken, a great deal depends. It is earnestly hoped by all interested in the Colony's future welfare that we may be able to drive from our midst the evils of constantly recurring disease and its concomitants, which have of late so gravely threatened our progress. Other urgent questions press for solution. The office of Colonial Secretary will be the reverse of a sinecure. A worthy successor to the post which the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART is vacating is vital to the advance of Hongkong. There is a natural prejudice in favour of men who are already well-known locally, and provided a desirable candidate can be found we imagine that residents would like to see promotion falling to the lot of a tried public servant. But in default of a local appointment,

all will pray that whoever may be brought in from outside the limits of the Hongkong Government service will be a man of undoubted strength to character.

THE LATE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd January.)

It is with most sincere regret we have to record the death of Retired Commander W. C. H. HASTINGS, R.N., Postmaster-General of Hongkong. By his lamented and untimely decease, the Colony loses an able, energetic, and most painstaking official, who can ill be spared. Captain HASTINGS only recently returned to Hongkong from a trip home on leave, and was almost immediately after his return obliged to give up the work he had so much at heart. He died yesterday morning at the Government Civil Hospital from cancer on the spine, a rather unusual form for this fell malady, after a good deal of suffering. Captain HASTINGS came out to Hongkong in 1900 as Assistant Harbour Master, and has since that time filled many posts, amongst others those of Acting Harbour Master, Acting Police Magistrate, Acting Coroner, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, Acting Governor of Victoria Gaol, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, and finally he was appointed Postmaster-General, at a time when that department had fallen into considerable confusion. In all these varied posts he brought the same thoroughness and quick intelligence to bear, and upon assuming charge of the Post Office he instituted drastic reforms and alterations which, as far as possible under the conditions—the most inadequate and ill-adapted building in which it is housed and limited staff—brought it up to comparative efficiency. Had the gallant officer lived to see the Post Office housed in a suitable structure he would no doubt have been able to realise all his plans and wishes for its efficient and rapid working. As it is, the Colonists are indebted to him for inaugurating many reforms and for bringing the Department more into line with current requirements. Captain HASTINGS thoroughly identified himself with the public life of the Colony, always showing a keen interest in all forms of sport, and was for some time Chairman of the Victoria Recreation Club, and enjoyed a widespread popularity for his genial qualities, his unspiring devotion to duty, and to his fearless discharge of it on all occasions. He was also a staunch and enthusiastic supporter of the Navy League, of which indeed he was President of the local branch. He leaves a widow and several children to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and a kind father. In their sad and irreparable loss the community most heartily sympathises.

A SCHOOL FOR EUROPEAN CHILDREN IN HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 21st January.)

It is with feelings of great pleasure that we learn that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has expressed his approval of the scheme for the establishment of a school for the better education of European children in Hongkong. We believe that it is probable that Hongkong will be granted an European boys' school and in addition a high-class school for Chinese. One of the most discreditable wants of the Colony thus appears reasonably certain of being filled. The news will be received with gratification by all those who took part in the movement which culminated in the petition to His Excellency Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, and especially is credit due to

the original committee which drew up that document, the principal members of which were the Right Rev. the Bishop J. C. HOARE (President of the Committee), the late Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, K.C., Colonel PASSEY, Dr. HARTIGAN, the Rev. W. BANNISTER, Messrs. W. POATE, H. HUMPHREYS, MURRAY STEWART, A. CUNNINGHAM, T. H. REID, and W. D. BRAIDWOOD. The much lamented Mr. FRANCIS was a particularly ardent supporter of the scheme, and his advocacy of it was among the last of his services to the public. It will be remembered that, as a result of the Committee's deliberations, the Bishop was requested to draw up a petition. This he did, and after it had been approved by the other members, it was forwarded to H.E. the Governor. Sir HENRY BLAKE gave it his most cordial support, as was to be expected from his previous declarations on the education question in Hongkong. The report on the Blue-Book for 1900, forwarded in September last with his endorsement, said:—"No satisfactory provision for the education of European children exists in Hongkong. Whilst European parents prefer to have their sons and daughters educated at home, a preference dictated by climatic and other reasons, there are not a few Europeans now in the Colony who are unable to afford to send their children to Europe. It would seem only just that educational facilities which are at present wanting should be afforded for such children." Such virtually being the Governor's opinion, the agreement between the official and non-official view on the question was rare for Hongkong, and a favourable result to the appeal has been eagerly looked for. There have not been wanting, it is true, pessimists who prophesied that the matter would be "shelved" and that Hongkong would be forced to continue in its state of educational benightedness. This happily has not proved to be the case, and we trust to see soon a move to put the Colony on a more dignified footing among the foreign settlements in the East.

THE WATER FAMINE.

(*Daily Press*, 25th January.)

Mr. OSBORNE did the public good service by calling attention once more, at Thursday's meeting of the Sanitary Board, to the unfortunately perennial question of the Colony's water-supply. He elicited from the Director of Public Works the information that we have at the present moment in hand a little over eight weeks' supply, judging from the rate of consumption last week. Mr. CHATHAM also stated that the services for the supply of shipping are being disconnected, and that the supply for buildings is also to be cut off. The Medical Officer of Health had already informed the Board that the supply of water for disinfecting purposes in connection with the cleansing gangs was brought up in buckets from the Praya. In three directions, therefore, the fresh-water supply of the Colony is being economised, giving a correspondingly larger amount for other absolutely necessary purposes. As the water hitherto devoted to the above-mentioned services is a very considerable quantity, the saving is important in its dimensions, and it is reassuring to know that the Director of Public Works thinks any extreme measures unnecessary. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that very grave inconveniences are already being suffered by a certain proportion of the community, while all alike are incommoded by the present limitation of the supply to three hours

daily. There was no exaggeration in the opening remarks of Mr. OSBORNE on Thursday on the shortage of water, and many of our readers are in a position to endorse them and to add further details. The present drought is admittedly abnormal, though not unprecedented. It is the duty, however, of municipal authorities, whether officially appointed or popularly chosen, to be ready to face abnormal conditions. Mr. CHATHAM allowed that recourse to the measures recommended by Mr. OSBORNE and already adopted within recent experience may be necessary, though it is hoped that this will not be so. It may be gathered from this that should the present drought continue unbroken for a few weeks more the Government is prepared to incur the expense called for by such steps as the provision on the Island of fresh water drawn from the Canton River. As we have now barely more than eight weeks' supply, this emergency may arise very soon. Everyone of course hopes that this will be averted by a timely visitation of rain, but the situation is very disconcerting and emphasises the improvidence of our local administrators in the past. The rapidity of the growth of Hongkong is, very naturally, alleged in excuse of this want of foresight, but the lesson to be learnt is that all existing or future schemes for the water-supply of Hongkong and Kowloon must allow the largest possible margin of increase. This is a subject on which the local Press has repeatedly dwelt in the past, but with little apparent effect. Events have completely justified the arguments advanced in our columns and those of our contemporaries. We wish to claim no particular credit for such expression of opinion, for it is only the thoughts of such of the community in general who have devoted any attention to the matter that have been voiced. But at least it can be asked with justice that the local authorities will refrain from continuing the blind policy of the past.

THE NAVY IN CHINA IN 1900.

(*Daily Press*, 20th January.)

An interesting return has been prepared for the House of Commons, and since issued, of the casualties incurred by the British naval forces employed in operations ashore and afloat in China in 1900. From this it appears that the total number landed was 167 officers and 2,040 men. Of these, one officer and 51 men were killed, 26 of the latter with Admiral SEYMOUR's relief force and 22 in the defence and relief of Tientsin. 4 officers and 12 men subsequently died of their wounds, while disease accounted for the loss of 2 officers and 20 men. The total deaths thus amounted to 7 officers and 83 men. The wounded were 13 officers and 256 men. Altogether the casualties were 20 officers out of 167, and 339 men out of 2,040—both fairly heavy proportions on the numbers engaged. According to the summary showing the various branches engaged, the Royal Navy landed 154 officers and 1,495 men, and lost 3 officers and 47 men killed and 11 officers and 174 men wounded; the Royal Marine Artillery landed 12 officers and 59 men and lost 3 officers and 3 men killed and 2 officers and 6 men wounded; while the Royal Marine Light Infantry landed 1 officer and 476 men and lost 1 officer and 33 men killed, and 73 men wounded. In the bombardment of the Taku Forts by H.M.S.S. *Algerine*, *Fame*, *Phoenix*, and *Whiting*, only three naval officers were landed, the other officers and men, though actively participating in the fighting, remaining afloat. It may be noted finally

uan in the last operations in which the Navy was engaged, the relief of Peking itself, though no less than 35 officers and 519 men were landed, only one man was wounded but 10 men died of disease consequent upon the trying ordeal through which the relief force had to pass.

THE MANCHURIAN CONVENTION.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd January.)

The Japanese newspaper, the *Mainichi*, gives what purports to be a further step in the Manchurian negotiations. It will be remembered that this journal at the end of last month published the terms of a new convention, the acceptance of which it stated that M. LESSAR was urging on the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, Prince CHING and WANG WEN-SHAO. This was the document which LI HUNG-CHANG was supposed to be on the point of signing at the time of his death. It appears that apart from the deceased statesman no one in China was acquainted with the convention (which we reproduced in our issue of the 7th instant), and the Emperor and Empress Dowager are said to have been absolutely ignorant of its nature. WANG WEN-SHAO therefore sent an answer to M. LESSAR, objecting to some of the principal stipulations and asking for fresh negotiations. The Russian Minister rejoined that he must refer the matter to S. Petersburg. The addition now made by the *Mainichi* to the story is that M. LESSAR has informed the Chinese authorities that Russia will never restore the control of the Newchwang Railway to China unless the Treaty be ratified as proposed by Russia. On the other hand, our Japanese contemporary goes on to state, Sir ERNEST SATOW is reported to have made representations to China that the railway south of Shanhai-kwan will never be handed over to her as long as the Russians remain in control of the Newchwang line, and that in addition the administration of Tientsin is in danger of being permanently retained by the Allies. What there may be in this story we are not in a position to judge. On the face of it, it looks not impossible, but that is all that can be said. If it be true, obviously the solution of the question at issue is brought no nearer by the latest development.

A NEW PEKING OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

(*Daily Press*, 24th January.)

The Shanghai native papers give the outlines of a new official journal which it is proposed to establish in Peking. It appears that the "Board of Regency" is to protect the new venture in the first instance, and that subsequently, should it prosper, the Government will be asked to control and aid it. The scheme of the paper, as detailed in the native Press, makes rather amusing reading. We are gravely told that, the chief object of the paper being to aid in the enlightenment of the people it will not therefore print anything "political or trifling." The combination of "political or trifling" is delightful. Then we are told that if any so-called news is afterwards found to be false, it must be corrected in later issues. This is sometimes done in unofficial papers in other places than Peking. As a guarantee of the sale of the new paper it is stipulated that, this being the official organ of government, the civil and military officials of all the provincial capitals must of course buy it and read it, and the governors must be ordered to command their subordinates and people to do the same. The list of contents includes the following,

which will appear in the order named:—Imperial Edicts—Important memorials—Public documents of the various yamen—Telegrams from the provinces—Foreign and Reuter's telegrams—Important editorials from other papers—Translations of foreign newspapers—Agriculture, commerce, trade—Miscellaneous items, "susceptible of proof," both for China and foreign countries; also all matters which concern the morals and manners of the people in Peking and out of it—Advertisements. This is sufficiently comprehensive. The proviso that the miscellaneous items shall be susceptible of proof shows a paternal regard for the welfare of the readers. But the rules as to what are the "things forbidden" in this model paper are perhaps the most humorous part of the prospectus. Firstly, there is to be no improper discussion of state affairs. This is decidedly to be commended, and it is obviously the safest course in China, if the editor wishes to continue in his chair. Secondly, "strange and improbable things will not be printed." We imagine, therefore, that there will be a strict censorship over the telegrams. But surely, "improbable things" often happen and even find their way into REUTER's and other foreign telegrams—to say nothing of native despatches. However, the Peking journal evidently wishes to be on the safe side. Thirdly, "jokes and detraction of character will be excluded." Of course! Such low methods of journalism are unworthy of Peking, and jokes would be particularly out of place in a sheet which may someday enjoy the patronage of the Empress Dowager. Finally, "bribes will not be extorted." Other papers, we believe, manage to exist without extorting bribes, but the Peking paper proclaims its incorruptibility at once in a praiseworthy way. We shall await the first number with interest.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 19th January, 12.30 p.m.

It is reported on the strength of good authority from Peking that General Tung Fuhsiang was executed on the 15th instant in the Governor's Yamen at Hsiaofu Shensi.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 23rd inst. in the Board Room. Present:—The President, Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Office); the Vice-President, Hon. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General); Dr. J. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Col. Hughes, R. A. M. C.; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. Edward Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chiun, Mr. Lau Chupak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

SHIP RATS AND BUBONIC PLAGUE.

A hand-book (with relative correspondence) was laid on the table from the Clayton Fire Extinguishing and Ventilating Co., Ltd., regarding the Clayton machine and its efficacy for the destruction of rats on ships from plague ports.

The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—I strongly recommend that the Government should order this apparatus from England—Type C—without the fire-extinguishing attachments, which do not appear to be needed for the work we require the apparatus to do—namely the destruction of rats in the holds of ships and possibly also in our drains.

The Director of Public Works minuted:—Until some idea has been formed as to the means of using the apparatus and the probable cost per annum it is somewhat premature to apply to Government. The apparatus must be mounted on a barge, which will require to be manned and will also require either to be

self-propelling or to be towed about the Harbour by means of a steam launch. What vessels is it proposed to disinfect or fumigate? I presume one apparatus would be quite incapable of dealing with all the vessels entering the Harbour.

The Registrar-General minuted:—I should like to know under what circumstances it is proposed to use this apparatus and how often it would have been used say last year.

The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—In reply to the Hon. Registrar-General I should say it would be used on all steamers leaving this port when plague prevails here and on all steamers arriving from plague-infected ports—only, however, with the consent of the shipping agents. I suggest the matter be referred to the Chamber of Commerce for their opinion by the Government.

Included in the correspondence was a letter from the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, containing an extract from a letter from the Local Government Board in reply to an enquiry as to the risk of rats introducing plague into a country by swimming ashore from vessels arriving from a plague-infected port and as to the precautions to be adopted to prevent it. This extract was to the effect that the Board were advised that, as a rule, rats when actually plague-stricken are not in a condition to swim ashore if the distance be considerable or the water at all rough. So far, however, as the Board have had experience in the matter, it would seem that rats on board ships from plague-infected ports do not necessarily suffer from plague and that it is the exception to find that rats on such ships have been suffering from notable illness or dying in conspicuous numbers during the voyage. If however cases of plague have occurred among the rats during the voyage there is no surety, so long as any remain alive on board the vessel, that some of these animals may not be capable of importing plague into the place of the vessel's destination. Hence the Board have recommended that special measures should be taken as regards rats in all such cases and they forward copies of a memorandum prepared by their Medical Officer setting out the precautions which should be taken to prevent as far as possible the introduction of plague into a place by means of ship-borne rats. These were—(1) destruction of rats on board, prevention of rats leaving the vessel by mooring a sufficient distance from other ships and from the shore, and placing guards on the mooring hawsers; (2) enquiries regarding mortality among rats on board vessels coming from plague-infected ports, examination of dead rats, and, if plague-stricken, the ship to be dealt with as provided under clause 1; (3) exceptional sickness; or mortality among rats on board any vessel within the district to be viewed with suspicion; (4) rats when destroyed on board ship not to be handled but at once cremated; (5) in the event of rats on board any ship being found to be infected with plague, all parts of vessel frequented by them to be disinfected; (6) authorities of seaport towns invaded by plague to endeavour to secure destruction of rats in the town, not least those inhabiting the docks and quayside warehouses, measures to be taken to prevent shore rats boarding vessels in port and attempt made to destroy all rats on board vessels about to proceed on their voyage, and captains of such vessels to be urged to take steps during the ensuing voyage for the destruction of rats that may have escaped destruction.

With a view to ascertaining the details of the apparatus devised for pumping SO₂ gas into the holds of ships for the destruction of rats the Colonial Office in London was communicated with and a letter was received in reply enclosing the hand-book of the Clayton Co., above referred to, with descriptions of the machine, which is specially designed for fumigating and disinfecting and may be erected on board a barge or on a wharf, connecting ships' holds with the machine by means of flexible pipes passed on board. So soon as the rats perceive the presence of the SO₂ gas which the machine pumps into the ships they come out of their hiding-places in their desire to get air and being suffocated in the open are readily collected and cremated. This gas ensures the destruction of all insects and parasites upon the rats. The price of the fumigating machine is £300 and of the necessary piping and accessories about £150.

The PRESIDENT said—As this is a matter which pre-eminently affects the shipping, I move that the Medical Officer of Health's recommendation that this matter be referred to the Chamber of Commerce be adopted.

Mr. BADELEY—Has the Government been asked to refer it?

Dr. CLARK—Yes.

Mr. BADELEY—I second that.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT—Whilst dealing with this matter of plague, you will find in the table a memorandum giving certain precautions which are necessary against plague and also certain facts, in a popular form, concerning plague. These have been printed by the advice of Professor Simpson, and it is proposed to issue them in English and also in Chinese. We only received these printed forms this morning, and it is now for the Board to adopt and authorise them; the sooner this is done the better. Information of this sort will tend to spread a knowledge of the disease and also of the precautions necessary to be taken against it. I move that we authorise the issue of this memorandum.

MR. OSBORNE—I suppose they will be scattered broadcast.

DR. CLARK—Professor Simpson suggests that.

MR. OSBORNE—I might suggest, if I am not too late, to add directions as to what people are to do when there is a case of plague in a house, in simple language. There are very few Chinese, and even Europeans, who know what to do, what to give, and so on.

The PRESIDENT—You mean more especially as to notification?

MR. OSBORNE—Yes; and I mean as to finding out whether it is plague or not. There is a great deal of malarial fever in the summer, and I think something might be said that would let people know whether it is plague or not; to find out what it is, and, when they have found out, what they are to do.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I to beg second the motion that the issue of this memorandum be authorised.

M. FUNG WA CHUN—I am afraid it is a very difficult question, this differentiation between fever and plague.

The PRESIDENT—I think we might leave it to the Medical Officer of Health to put in a simple form the information required by Mr. Osborne.

The motion was agreed to.

ANTI PLAGUE INOCULATION.

The PRESIDENT—Whilst dealing with this matter, I may mention that a fresh supply of anti-plague serum has arrived in the Colony. Indian and European experience leaves no doubt as to its protective influence when it is injected subcutaneously. It is not a complete protection, but undoubtedly an attack after the serum has been inoculated is of a milder nature; and it occurred to me that there are many Europeans in Hongkong who might with advantage be inoculated, and that as speedily as possible. I refer more especially to those who have to live in Chinese houses and those who have to live, if not in Chinese houses, at least in European houses which are in close proximity to Chinese houses. I would advise all such to be inoculated. It occurred to me that the Chinese New Year holidays would be a very suitable time for this to be done. It is necessary to explain that there is usually fever and discomfort for from 24 to 72 hours, but this is not quite so much as usually occurs in an ordinary case of vaccination. You will see in this memorandum that free inoculation will be performed at the Government Civil Hospital and the Sanitary Board offices by a medical officer from 9 to 10 a.m. daily, Sundays excepted. It is also intended that if those Europeans prefer to be inoculated by their own medical practitioners the serum will be provided free to the medical doctors for this purpose. A statement concerning the effect of this inoculation—the immediate result of it upon the person inoculated—has now been printed and it is proposed to disseminate that in a similar manner to this memorandum. If many Europeans avail themselves of this offer it would be advisable that they should communicate with the Medical Officer of Health so that we may know how many probably we will have to inoculate. Arrangements could be made, I think, a

day or two days before the Chinese holidays to inoculate any who wish to be done. I brought this before the Board because I thought it advisable for the public to know it as the holidays occur before we meet again in a fortnight's time.

THE DEATH-RATE.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 11th January showed that the death-rate had been 17.1 per 10,000 of the population per annum as against 17.3 in the previous week and 16.1 in the corresponding week of the preceding year.

PROPOSED CATTLE-CREMATORIUM.

The SECRETARY laid on the table three plans received from the Director of Public Works, showing the arrangements and construction of a proposed cattle-crematorium and refuse-destructor at Kennedy Town. The crematorium and destructor consist of one cell only, the latter being intended for the destruction of rubbish removed from plague-infected premises.

ANALYSES OF BEER AND MILK.

There was laid on the table a return containing the results of examinations made by Mr. Frank Browne, the Government Analyst, under "The Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance" for the quarter ended 31st December, 1901. It bore that two samples each of beer and milk had been analysed. One sample of milk was found to be adulterated. Both samples of beer were genuine.

THE NEW STAG HOTEL.

The SECRETARY submitted an application for permission to erect water closets and urinals at 155, Queen's Road Central, the New Stag Hotel.

The following was minuted by Mr. E. Osborne:—Sanction provided a well is sunk and water pumped from it to flushing cistern.

In answer to a letter Mr. C. E. Warren, the engineer, had stated that it was intended to sink a well sufficient to give three days' supply and also to fix a pump and raise water to a storage cistern twice daily.

The PRESIDENT—In connection with this application there is also a similar one from Messrs. Leigh & Orange with regard to Prince's Buildings. We might take them both together. This is an application for permission to erect eight water closets and four urinals at the new block on Praya Extension, Prince's Building. The condition laid down by the Surveyor is that there be a storage system of 400 gallons a day and that there be a pump to raise the water to a cistern on the roof. Mr. Osborne states in the first application that he would sanction it provided that a well is sunk and the water pumped to a flushing cistern. I think the same condition might be enforced with reference to the second application. If this cistern is covered so that there are no means of using the water for bodily purposes and the water is obtained in both cases I do not think we can object.

MR. OSBORNE—I think some depth should be named as to the well. I know as a fact that a plentiful supply, quite sufficient for flushing purposes, can be obtained on the Praya anywhere at a depth of 25 feet, and the object in making this stipulation is that the water closets should have plentiful water for flushing in the seasons of drought. Unless some stipulation is made that the well must be sunk to a specific depth they may sink the well for 3 or 4 feet and thereby comply with the sanitary requirements without actually complying with health requirements. It might be made 20 feet.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—I would suggest 12 feet or so—not less than 10—on the Praya; and 20 feet in the other cases.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT this suggestion was adopted—namely 10 feet in the one case and 20 feet in the other.

WORK OF CLEANSING GANGS.

The SECRETARY laid on the table a report of the work done by the cleansing gangs during the fortnight ended 18th January. It bore that 924 houses had been cleansed, 1,851 floors fumigated, and 2,735 floors cleaned. The number dealt with in the previous fortnight (which contained however four public holidays) was 691. The number of houses lime-washed during the fortnight ended 15th January was 227.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—It seems to me that this work is making very satisfactory progress. Might I ask when it will probably be completed?

Dr. CLARK—We have been at it now for six weeks. I am afraid we shall go very much

slower now, because we are getting low in our water supply. We have to carry water up in buckets from the Praya for the cleansing operations and it will probably take us half the day to carry up the necessary amount.

WATER SHORTAGE.

MR. OSBORNE—I should like, if I am in order, to ask the Director of Public Works if he will kindly state for the information of the Board whether any steps are likely to be taken for supplying water as was done some years ago when we had a similar drought and when lighters were employed in bringing water from the Canton River. I do not know that this matter altogether concerns the Sanitary Board, but it concerns us a great deal. I think we should not allow this meeting to pass without saying something on the subject and endeavouring as far as possible to meet this drought. I believe that good water can be obtained on the other side and brought over here and distributed along the Praya—sold, if need be. I have been told of one instance of Chinese down in the East Point direction not being able to get water at all from the hydrants, and to-day I am told by a Portuguese on the Caine Road level that there also they cannot get water without fighting for it at the hydrants, and that they would gladly send their coolies down to the Praya and pay say 5 cents a bucket—they are now paying 10—if the Government would supply it. I think that if the Director of Public Works can give us any information on the point, it might be as well to do so here.

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM—I think, with your permission, Mr. President, there can be no objection to replying as far as I am able to the questions Mr. Osborne has put. I may say that at the present time there is no occasion to make such arrangements as he has referred to. At the commencement of this week—on Monday—was as nearly as possible 115,000,000 gallons, and at the rate of consumption of the preceding week we had fully nine weeks' supply in hand. Since then arrangements have been made, as the Medical Officer of Health mentioned a minute ago to discontinue the supply of water for disinfecting purposes. That means that not only will water not be supplied for disinfecting purposes but it will be shut off during the whole of the 24 hours—except such periods as it is turned on in accordance with the present system—from the whole of the town. Of course when disinfecting operations were going on down at the Queen's Road level it meant that a considerable section of the City above that level was able to draw water from the mains during all the period it was turned on for the disinfection work. That will be obviated in the future. Then I may also say that the services for the supply of shipping are being disconnected and it is now proposed to disconnect all the buildings supplies, so that by conserving the remaining quantity of water it is hoped that it will not be necessary to resort to any such measures as bringing the water in that way. Of course, if further experience showed it to be necessary to have recourse to these measures they would be adopted.

MR. OSBORNE—But what I refer to is the question of the present scarcity. There is sufficient water in the reservoirs but the people are not getting it. To-day they cannot get water. It is turned on certainly at certain hours, but the number of people who are able to get the daily dole is very small; at least not all do. I do not know what proportion of the population are finding difficulty in getting water but certainly a proportion is finding difficulty, and it is to meet that difficulty that I suggest this.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—Well, sir, if I may be allowed to add to what I have already said, the disconnecting of these services, such as those for the supply of shipping should aid in enabling ordinary residents to secure a supply, because some of those services that they have are of considerable dimensions and if they are open to the full extent possibly while the water is turned on they of course would draw off a large quantity of water and prevent its rising to other points, so that possibly what I have alluded to will tend to alleviate the conditions to which Mr. Osborne has referred.

This was all the public business.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held in the Chamber Room on the 14th January, 1902, at 3.30 p.m.—Present: Sir Thomas Jackson (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Mr. A. Haupt, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. R. L. Richardson, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. T. H. Whitehead (*ex-officio*), and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).—

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Monthly Meeting (held on the 5th December, 1901) were confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following, having been duly proposed and seconded, were elected to membership of the Chamber:—The China Export, Import and Bank Co., Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. Fung Wa Chün, Mr. M. S. Sassoon, and Mr. C. L. Go, ham.

PROPOSED ASHES MONOPOLY.

A notice having been published in the *Government Gazette* of the 7th December containing Regulations for the collection of ashes by a monopolist under an Order in Council, a letter was, on the 10th idem, addressed by the Chamber to the Colonial Secretary, directing attention to a letter (of which a copy was enclosed) from the Chamber to the Government dated 19th May, 1900; in reply to a request for an opinion as to the desirability of constituting such a monopoly, and adding that as no acknowledgement of its receipt had been given, it was concluded by the Committee that the project had been abandoned.

On the 11th December a letter was addressed to the Chamber by the shipping firms calling attention to the proposed monopoly, endorsing the terms of the Chamber's letter of the 19th May, 1900, and requesting the Committee to approach the Government again on the subject.

A reply to the Chamber's letter of the 11th was received from the Government on the 17th December, to the effect that the communication was receiving attention.

After some conversation,

The CHAIRMAN said he thought that before further action was taken it would be well to await the reply of the Government on the whole question. He himself was entirely opposed to the principle of granting monopolies.

It was agreed to do nothing until a further communication had been received from the Government.

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES.

The SECRETARY reported that, in accordance with the decision taken at last meeting, letters were on the 11th December despatched to the British Minister at Peking and to Sir James Mackay at Shanghai enclosing copy of Mr. Arnold's letter of the 4th December announcing the continued existence of the Native Customs at Canton under the Hoppo, and the fresh diversion of cargo from steamers in consequence of his action in accepting lower duties on junk-borne cargo. A letter was also, on the 12th December, addressed to the Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of that sent to the British Minister for the information of H.E. the Governor.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 16th December, acknowledging receipt of the latter.

Also read reply from Sir James Mackay, dated 23rd December, in which he said he had communicated with the British Minister, and thought the matter was one that could be dealt with by Sir E. Satow, who, moreover, concurred in that opinion.

The CHAIRMAN said that Sir Ernest Satow had taken the matter up vigorously. He had made demands on the Peking Government that the Native Customs at Canton should be removed from the hands of the Hoppo and placed under control of the Imperial Maritime Customs, as had been done in other ports. He hoped that these representations would have a speedy effect, and he thought that the Minister was entitled to credit for his prompt action.

The Committee concurred.

THE CHINESE TARIFF.

Read letter from Sir James Mackay, dated 26th December, enclosing copy of draft of a New Chinese Import Tariff which he had received from the Foreign Office, and asking to

be favoured with any remarks and suggestions the Chamber had to offer in connection therewith on the earliest possible date.

After some discussion,

It was decided to reply to the effect that the Shanghai merchants were more competent to deal with the details of the Tariff than this Chamber, because they were in touch with the Customs, while such was not the case in this port. The Committee would look with more favour on a scale drafted in Shanghai than one drawn in London. This Chamber had been in close communication with Shanghai on the subject ever since negotiations on the tariff were commenced, and were in complete accord with the Chamber and the China Association there.

Also read letter from Sir James Mackay, dated the 7th January, asking for a fuller information on certain subjects dealt with in the Chamber's Memorandum on the Tariff and Trade Questions.

THE SECRETARY read draft of proposed reply, which was considered and adopted.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

Read letter from the Government, dated 17th December, acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of the 19th November forwarding a petition from the shipping firms and agencies addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and stating that the subject matter of that petition had been receiving careful consideration and the document would be forwarded to the Colonial Office in due course.

The CHAIRMAN said that they must now await the decision of the Secretary of State on the points raised.

PROPOSED EXHIBITION AT S. LOUIS, U.S.A.

Read letter from Mr. Rublee, United States Consul-General, dated 3rd January, stating that it was proposed to hold a World's Fair at S. Louis, Missouri, in the summer of 1903, and it was hoped by the projectors and by the U. S. Government that Hongkong would participate on a large scale, and asking if there was a disposition in the Colony to take part in the Exposition.

Also read letter on the same subject from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 13th January, applying for the views of the Chamber before replying to the Consul-General, who had addressed the Government on the matter.

After some consideration and discussion,

It was resolved to reply to the effect that as the manufactures of Hongkong were so inconsiderable and its productions so limited it would not be practicable for the Colony as such to participate in the Exhibition. Private individuals and firms would, however, be encouraged to aid in the movement and the Chamber would suggest to the Government that the Registrar-General should approach Chinese workers in gold, silver, and blackwood, &c. pointing out to them the advantages of being represented at S. Louis Exhibition.

THE BURMA-SHAAN-CHINA RAILWAY.

Read circular letter from the Liverpool Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, dated 4th November, transmitting copy of a memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for India in Council upon the subject of the above proposed railway and its extension into the province of Szechuen, and asking this Chamber to support the memorial by making similar representations to His Majesty's Government.

The Committee were not favourable to the scheme, which they regarded as impracticable and costly, and it was decided to reply to the effect that the Chamber is not prepared to support the memorial, and desired to direct attention to the speeches made by Lord Curzon on the subject during his recent tour through Burma.

TELEGRAPH RATES TO EUROPE.

In connection with an intimation given in the papers to the effect that the Telegraph Convention, which was to have been held in February had been postponed for a year, the Committee decided to address a letter to the Superintendent of the Joint Telegraph Companies and ask him if he could give any information as to the date when it was probable the promised reduction in the rates to Europe and India would come into force.

This was all the business of general interest before the meeting.

DEATH OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

We regret to announce the death of the Postmaster-General, Commander W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., which took place on the 22nd inst. in the Government Civil Hospital. The deceased gentleman had been in indifferent health for a considerable time, and the end was not unexpected. He came to the Colony from British Honduras, where he had previously filled a Government appointment, in 1890, and took up the position of Assistant Harbour Master. In 1895 he acted as Captain Superintendent of Police during the absence on leave of the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. He was appointed Postmaster on 15th February, 1899. In March, 1900, he left the Colony for home on leave and only returned in September of last year. Ever since his return Captain Hastings had shown signs of failing, his death being due to cancer. He left the office on 19th October. On the 27th inst. Mr. E. Cornewall Lewis, the Assistant Postmaster, saw him, and at that time he was quite conscious and fully realised he was dying. All through his painful illness Captain Hastings bore his sufferings with a touching patience and resignation. He leaves a widow and young family to mourn his loss, and to them in their bereavement the widespread sympathy of the Colony is extended.

The deceased was naturally of a retiring nature, and his lack of robust health while in Hongkong prevented him still further from taking part in a prominent degree in the public and even the social life of the Colony; but he was held in universal respect and esteem by all with whom he came in contact. Especially was this the case with the public servants in the Governmental Departments with which he was at one time or another connected. Particularly, he took a great interest in the Police; as an evidence of this it may be mentioned that he requested on his death-bed that his coffin should be carried from the hearse to the grave by members of the Force. When his son died three years ago a similar request was made in his case, and each of the six police pall-bearers received a characteristically kind letter from the bereaved father upon that occasion. Captain Hastings's memory will be cherished by the Police of Hongkong. He was an enthusiastic Mason. Evincing always in a quiet way a great interest in sport, he was President of the Victoria Recreation Club, and shortly after his recent return from home he performed the ceremony of presenting the prizes won at the annual Swimming Gala, and on that occasion was made the recipient of a handsome present of silver plate subscribed for by the members and formally handed over by the Hon. H. E. Pollock, who was then Vice-President. On account of the death of Captain Hastings, the Post Office was closed on Wednesday at 3 p.m.

The funeral took place later in the afternoon to Happy Valley. The cortège passed the Monument at five o'clock, and at this place several hundred people, including Government officials, Naval and Military officers, Freemasons, and citizens had congregated. As the hearse, which was covered with wreaths, went slowly past, hats were doffed and salutes given to all that remained of him in whose memory the great concourse had assembled. Behind the hearse walked H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, His Honour A. G. Wise, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C., Mr. F. J. Badeley, Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Bell, Hon. C. P. Chater, Hon. W. Chatham, and many other prominent public officials and leading members of the community. The coffin, after being draped with the Union Jack, was borne from the hearse to the grave by Police Inspectors McNab, Gauld, Ford and Warnock, preceded by Bishop Hoare reading the burial service. The sad ceremony at the graveside concluded, the coffin was lowered into its resting-place by the same police inspectors whose privilege it had been to convey thither the body, and the last duty of all, the filling-in of the grave, was performed by Police Sergeants MacSwayed, Gerrard, Gordon, Brazil and Cameron.

Wreaths were sent, amongst others, by Major-General Sir William Gascoigne, C.M.G., Acting Governor; the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary; Lieut. A. Blake, "on behalf of Sir Henry A. Blake"; the Officers and Brethren of the United Mark Lodge, 419, E.C.; Officers and Brethren United Chapter, 1,341; Officers and Brethren Ararat Lodge, 264, E.C.; Postal Staff, General Post Office; Bishop and Mrs. Hoare, Colonel and Miss Barr, Dr. and Mrs. Swan, Superintendent and Staff P. & O. S. N. Company, etc.

Captain Hastings's grave is next to that of his son, whose death about three years ago came as a very severe blow to the deceased.

A BACTERIOLOGIST FOR HONGKONG.

A home contemporary understands that the Colonial Office has appointed Dr. William Hunter, of Aberdeen, to be Government bacteriologist to this Colony. Dr. Hunter, who is the eldest son of the late Rev. William Hunter, minister of Macduff, is but 26 years of age, and has had a most distinguished career says the journal from which we are quoting remarks. He received his early education at Macduff Public School and Milne's Institution, Fochabers. Graduating M.B., C.M., at Aberdeen University in 1886 with academical honours, Dr. Hunter, during his undergraduate career, received honours certificates in all his classes, and was medallist in pathology and bacteriology, physiology, histology, surgery, *materia medica*, forensic medicine, and biology. He was awarded the Dr. James Anderson Medal and Scholarship for clinical medicine and gained the John Murray Medal and Scholarship, which is awarded to the most distinguished graduate of the year. For a time he acted as junior assistant to Professor Hamilton, but in 1897 received the George Thompson Travelling Fellowship, and proceeded to the Continent, where he studied in the medical schools of Leipzig and Berlin, under such men as Professors Birch-Hirschfeld, Flechsig, Hertwieg, Langerhans, and Virchow. Returning to Britain, Dr. Hunter went to London, where he acted as clinical assistant to Professor Ferrier, and pursued his research work under the latter and Dr. W. Aldren Turner. In July, 1899, he received the appointment of assistant bacteriologist to the London Hospital, under Dr. William Bulloch, which he has since held. During his stay in London, Dr. Hunter has compiled a number of important contributions to medical literature. Among his certificates, our contemporary records, are those of Professor Ferrier, King's College London; Professor R. W. Reid, F.R.C.S.; Professor Cash, F.R.C.S.; Dr. G. Lenthal Cheattle, F.R.C.S., late consulting surgeon to H.M. Forces in South Africa; Dr. Leonard Hill, F.R.S., Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons; Dr. W. Aldren Turner, King's College, London; Dr. William Bulloch, London, and others.

Dr. Hunter was expected to leave home about the middle of the current month for Hongkong.

The location of the new U.S. military prison in the Philippines has been decided upon, and the island of Maligi has been chosen. Maligi is located in Laguna de Bay, near the island of Talim. General Bell was perfectly satisfied with the island on his recent visit there, believing that it was in every way adapted for the purpose.

The Labuan and North Borneo correspondent of the *Singapore Free Press* writes:—Labuan begins the New Year with a very long face. Heavy taxes are imposed on wine, spirits and tobacco. We remember that when Governor Beaufort reduced these taxes, he had to obtain the permission of the Colonial Secretary. Has Mr. Chamberlain been consulted in the present case? All classes and races have somewhat to say to him on the subject. Is there any reason why Labuan, a Crown Colony, should be taxed to pay for a railway that starts nowhere, goes nowhere, is continually floating down rivers and getting lost in swamps? What is Labuan to get in exchange for the "whiskey money"? Good administration, good roads? Perhaps.

THE ATTACK ON THE "NANNING."

We learn from semi-official sources that the investigations made by the British gunboat *Robin* regarding the alleged attack by Chinese soldiers upon the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamship Co.'s.s.s. *Nanning* on the West River, on the 13th current, have not, happily, tended to encourage the justifiably serious view which was taken of the affair when the news first came to hand. The attendant circumstances will no doubt be fresh in the public memory, but may be briefly recalled. On the morning of the day indicated, the *Nanning* was on a trip up the West River from Canton, having on board four European passengers, namely, Rev. E. J. Hardy, M.A., Chaplain to the Forces; Rev. C. E. L. Cowan, Chaplain, H.M.S. *Glory*; Dr. R. Macdonald, of the Wesleyan Mission; and Mr. Fabian, an employé of the Imperial Customs. Shortly after mid-day, the passengers' attention was called to the presence on the bank of a large body of Chinese soldiers, who, according to the evidence of those on board seemed to be having a field day or to be going through manoeuvres of some kind. There were certainly no indications of hostility on the part of the soldiers toward the *Nanning*, yet when she drew opposite them, a number of shots were fired, and Mr. Cowan was hit in the leg, while Mr. Fabian had his clothing cut by a spent bullet. The *Nanning* afterwards fell in with the British gunboats *Robin* and *Sandpiper* and reported the affair. Mr. Cowan and Mr. Hardy returned to Hongkong on the last-named boat, and the *Robin* proceeded to the scene of the supposed outrage to investigate.

After having been fired upon, the *Nanning* passed three Chinese gunboats, laden with soldiers, steaming toward the place where the affair had happened. When the *Robin* arrived there she found a number of soldiers making preparations to attack a large piratical junk said to be in the neighbourhood. Enquiry among these elicited the statement that the shots which struck the *Nanning* were not fired by the soldiers, but by pirates with whom they were then fighting and who doubtless mistook the *Nanning* for a gunboat coming to assist in attacking them. If the shots did come from the soldiers, then they were not intentionally aimed at her, but hit her simply because she happened to come into the line of fire. Such was the story told by the Chinese officers. They pointed out, too, that the shot which injured Mr. Cowan must have come from a distance of 1,000 or even 1,500 yards to have been so much spent as it was at the point of impact.

The commander of the *Robin* was afterwards asked to tow the soldiers toward the junk upon which they meditated the attack. The British officer readily consented to take the craft in which the soldiers were in tow, but at the last moment the Chinese declined to venture a conflict on the pretence that their guns were not large enough to tackle the pirate. Leaving them behind, the *Robin* went on alone to the place where the junk was said to have been, only to find that she had sailed away fourteen hours previously and had doubtless gained the coast.

The Chinese on the West River state that a piratical combination on a considerable scale is feared in these waters, as overt threats to that effect have been thrown out of late.

At the dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, British commercial interests in Japan were discussed. Baron Hayashi, Japanese Minister in London speaking thereon, expressed appreciation of the great interest British manufacturers took in Japanese trade.

The *P. & T. Times* says:—The Tientsin Provisional Government in collusion with the Hai-ho Improvement Commission is taking preliminary steps to deal with the Bar question. We understand that applications have been addressed to the British and Russian Admirals to secure their co-operation in a comprehensive marine survey of the whole debouchement of the Hai-ho. It is by action like this that the T.P.G. proves that it is ever on the alert to do good work, and that it is in splendid contrast to the supine Chinese Government which required to be goaded into beneficial action.

HONOURS FOR THE CHINA EXPEDITION.

The King has given orders for the following appointment to the Order of the Bath and for the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Order, in recognition of services during the operations in China, these rewards to bear date of Nov. 29, 1900:—To be Companion of the Bath: Major and Brevet Colonel James Moncrieff Grierson, M.V.O., Royal Artillery. To be Companions of the D.S.O.: Capt. Herbert Campbell Holman, Indian Staff; Lieut. Stewart Gordon Loch, R.E.; Lieut. Henry Edward Colvin Cowie, R.E.; Lieut. James David Stirling, Indian Staff; Lieut. James Macpherson, Indian Staff; and Lieut. Herbert Armstrong Williams, Indian Medical. A number of promotions in the army are also gazetted. To be Colonel: Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. L. Macdonald, C.I.E., Royal Engineers. To be Lieut.-Colonels: Major A. L. M. Turner, Royal Artillery; Major F. W. P. Angelo, Indian Staff Corps; Major A. Phayre, Indian Staff Corps; Major T. F. B. Renny-Tailyour, Royal Engineers. To be Majors: Captain W. M. Watson, the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment); Captain (now Major) J. M. Stewart, Indian Staff Corps; Captain (now Major) H. Hudson, Indian Staff Corps; Captain R. B. Low, D.S.O., Indian Staff Corps; Captain G. H. G. Mockler, Indian Staff Corps; Captain D. R. Adye, Indian Staff Corps. Major C. C. Manifold, Indian Medical, to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

The King has conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon the undermentioned nursing sisters, in recognition of their services to the sick and wounded during the operations in China: Miss Agnes Mary Waterhouse and Miss Marian Jeannette Hislop. The King has also approved of the grant of the medal for distinguished conduct in the field to the undermentioned non-commissioned officers in recognition of their gallant conduct during the operations in China: Colour-Sergeant R. Ruxdon, Coldstream Guards, and Quarter-master-Sergeant E. Brooke, the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), both attached to the Chinese Regiment of Infantry. The King has appointed Major Henry Edward Fane Goold-Adams, R.A., to be C.I.G., also for services in China.

It will be noted that Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. L. Macdonald, of Uganda fame, has been promoted to the rank of full Colonel for his services with the expeditionary column. Colonel Macdonald is an engineer officer, and made the original survey for the Mombasa-Victoria Nyanza Railway. He will be remembered for his long struggle with the Soudanese rebels in Uganda.

FIRE ON THE "BYGDO" IN HARBOUR.

On the 21st inst. fire broke out on board the Norwegian steamer *Bygdo*, lying in the Harbour at the Austrian Lloyd Company's anchorage. The *Bygdo* had taken in all her cargo, and the passengers were being passed by the police preparatory to the vessel's departure for Singapore, which was to have taken place almost immediately, when a sudden cry of "Fire" was raised. Hasty enquiry on the part of the ship's officers, who were at the time on deck, elicited the information that, following almost immediately on the explosion of a naphtha lamp in the engine-room, smoke had been seen issuing from the after-hold, where a miscellaneous cargo, including in large part "joss-sticks" and matting, was stored. The ship's fire-pumps were at once rigged up, and simultaneously a distress signal was hoisted at the mast-head. When the Government floating engine arrived half-an-hour later, those on board had succeeded in extinguishing the outbreak in the engine-room, which had been set on fire by the explosion of the naphtha lamp. The firemen on the floating engine at once directed their attention to the after-hold, the dense smoke from which told its own tale. Holes were cut in the deck to facilitate the subjugation of the flames, and whilst the firemen were at this work their numbers were augmented considerably by the arrival of parties of bluejackets from

several of the British men-of-war, who brought their own fire appliances. Rear-Admiral Grenfell was one of the officers who accompanied them. The conflagration in the after-hold was then attacked with vigour, streams of water being poured on the burning cargo. It was not however, till the great weight of water was causing the *Bygdo* to settle down by the stern that the fire was finally overcome. The bluejackets, in whose praise too much cannot be said for the energy and unselfishness of their labours, left for their respective ships about five o'clock, but the firemen stood by till some time later.

The cause of the outbreak has not yet been ascertained, and while it possibly may have been due to the explosion of the naphtha lamp in the engine-room, the almost simultaneous appearance of smoke from the after-hold supports the theory that the cause which led to the fire in the hold was responsible also for the explosion in the engine-room. It is probable that the *Bygdo* may have to discharge her remaining cargo and go into dock for repairs.

The *Bygdo* is owned by a firm in Christiania, and the local agents are Messrs. Sander, Weiler & Co.

The Norwegian steamer *Bygdo* still remains at her moorings. It has not yet been ascertained what the amount of the damage is, and this will probably not be ascertained until the vessel is docked.

THE CATHEDRAL CHAPLAINCY.

In connection with the discussion concerning the Cathedral Chaplaincy, as it is a public matter, we are able to publish the following particulars of what has actually transpired.

In October last the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, the senior chaplain, who was then in England, sent a telegram personally to Bishop Hoare announcing his intention to ask leave to resign from his position as chaplain on his return to the Colony. His object in cabling was to give the Church Body ample time to select a successor, and he was prepared to remain until the new chaplain took over charge.

On receipt of the telegram the Bishop called a meeting of the Church Body, and what was done is explained thus in the last issue of *Church Notes*—

"The Senior Chaplaincy.—A circular has been issued by the Church Body to the seatholders and subscribers, bearing the date 23rd December, setting forth what has been done by them since the 3rd of October when a telegram was sent to the Bishop by the Senior Chaplain announcing his intention of asking permission to resign on his return. The Church Body in their circular say that they at once met, and offered the provisional appointment to the Rev. F. T. Johnson; that he accepted it and that it has since been confirmed. On the return of the Senior Chaplain his resignation was received and accepted, to take effect on the date proposed by him—31st March. Thereupon an agreement was made between the Church Body and Mr. Johnson by which the latter is due to take up the work as Senior Chaplain by 1st August. In the meantime Mr. Johnson has gone to Ireland and has been asked, in concert with others, to make the appointment of an Assistant Chaplain. It is very unfortunate that there must be a period of four months from April to August when there will be no regular Chaplain, but the Church Body tell us that they have secured the Rev. G. A. Bunbury, of the C.M.S., to conduct the services in the Cathedral."

Whilst this was taking place no notification was made to the Seatholders and Subscribers who were thus kept ignorant of the actual state of affairs and consequently had no voice in the matter. The points, therefore, which have aroused considerable feeling, producing the correspondence in the Press, are (1) that the Church Body made no attempt to consult the Seatholders and Subscribers and thus to learn and meet their wishes; (2) that the Church Body settled the appointment entirely among themselves; (3) that the Church Body in addition authorised the new chaplain with others unknown to engage an additional chaplain without consulting the Seatholders and Subscribers. It is claimed that the Church Body would have shown better judgment and consideration if

they had submitted the matter to the Seatholders and Subscribers for their approval, especially as the salaries of the new chaplains are to be paid solely from the contributions of the Seatholders and Subscribers and the collections. The Church Body, however, base their actions on clause 8 of the St. John's Cathedral Ordinance of 1899, which gives them power to appoint the chaplains without consulting the Seatholders and Subscribers.

Another matter which has also created feeling has been the request of the Bishop of Victoria for the Church Body's interpretation of clause 9 of the Ordinance, which says:—

"All matters connected with the religious services of the church or the rites and ritual thereof shall be under the immediate direction and management of the Chaplain for the time being, subject, nevertheless to the control of the said Bishop for the time being."

The opinion expressed by the Church Body gives the Bishop greater powers than it was generally believed he possessed in Cathedral matters, which some, considering the politics of the Bishop, resent, regarding his sphere more as being the missionary field of South China. Referring to this point the last number of *Church Notes* remarks:—

"As the Church Body 'has no official organ through which to notify its acts' we should be glad to publish here from time to time any matter of general interest and importance. It might be well if they would hand us for the information of Church people a conclusion at which they have lately arrived defining the relationship between the Bishop of the Diocese and the Chaplain of the Cathedral."

"We think it would also be well if our people would make themselves acquainted with the local conditions of the Anglican Church. It is a disestablished and disendowed Church, and it is self-supporting. The accounts will be published before the annual meeting. The St. John's Cathedral Ordinances 1892 and 1899 ought to be more generally known; and every voter at the annual meeting should have a copy of the 'Regulations,' made by the Church Body and annually to be approved by the Seatholders and Subscribers. There are a number of copies of the latter in the vestry, and we shall be glad if people will ask for them."—*Daily Press*, 18th January.

MEETING OF SEATHOLDERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The annual meeting of Subscribers and Seatholders of St. John's Cathedral was held at St. Paul's College on the 23rd inst. at five o'clock, when that much-discussed question, the appointment of the Senior Chaplain, was considered. The meeting was a large one—larger than has been the case for a number of years—and was presided over by His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese.

The minute of the last annual meeting having been read and approved, the accounts for the year, on the motion of the TREASURER, Mr. H. A. W. Slade, seconded by Mr. A. CUNNINGHAM, were passed.

In this connection Mr. J. H. Cox, who was informed by Mr. Slade, in reply to a question, that the three years' agreement of the Rev. F. T. Johnson included the payment of his passage out and home, expressed the opinion that the proceeding was an expensive one for such a short agreement, which could with advantage be extended to four or five years.

Commenting on the fact that the expenditure this year was nearly \$3,000 over that of last year, the CHAIRMAN said that unless subscriptions in the future came in differently from the way they had been doing, some other means would have to be adopted for raising money.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business of the meeting, His LORDSHIP invited discussion on any matter not before them.

Mr. A. CUNNINGHAM then moved "that under Regulation No. 16, Clause 3, all voting at this meeting be by ballot," and this having received the support of three Seatholders or Subscribers, it was duly declared carried.

Mr. A. CUNNINGHAM next moved "that the minutes of the meetings of the Church Body held subsequent to the receipt by the Bishop of Victoria of the telegram from the Senior Chaplain in October last be now read at this meeting."

Mr. LEIGH seconded.

The CHAIRMAN—I am afraid that cannot be done without the approval of the Church Body.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM—I may take it, sir, that at the present moment there is really no Church Body in existence, and I take it also that every Seatholder and Subscriber has the right to see those minutes.

The CHAIRMAN said that personally he had no objection to the minutes being read, but he was afraid it involved a serious precedent.

The Hon. W. LEIGH GOODMAN, K.C., being appealed to for his opinion, said he did not think there was any right on the part of a general meeting to require the minutes of the Church Body to be read. As a matter of courtesy, however, he was quite agreeable to their being read, so long as it was not taken as a precedent.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY—As a personal matter I wish to say I have no objection to the minutes of the meeting being read, but as a matter of principle I shall vote against it (Hear, hear.)

In reply to Mr. G. C. C. MASTER, who asked the definition of a "registered subscriber," the CHAIRMAN (who proposed to limit the voting to registered subscribers) said a registered subscriber was a subscriber who was registered.

Mr. MASTER—Am I a registered subscriber?

The CHAIRMAN—If you are registered in the book.

Mr. Master, however, was not so registered, as the TREASURER explained, but as his subscription had been paid the omission was an oversight.

Mr. MASTER—Then I am entitled to vote?

The CHAIRMAN—Oh, yes.

The SECRETARY, Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, then read the minutes (the CHAIRMAN interrupting at the commencement to say that it was only by accident that the minute-book was there), after which,

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said he regretted that it was his painful duty, in response to a request of a number of Seatholders and Subscribers, to move the following resolution:—"That this meeting deplores the action of the Church Body in appointing a Senior Chaplain without consulting the wishes of the Seatholders and Subscribers." It was, he believed, the first occasion on which such a resolution had been proposed in connection with a Church Body in this Colony, and they all devoutly trusted it would be the last.

It should be unnecessary for him to state that those responsible for the resolution regretted exceedingly that such a course should have been rendered imperative. It was not his duty to defend their action for it needed no apology, but that regret was intensified when the action which they took was produced by the absolute and continual disregard of their feelings and interests by those elected to serve them and who promised to do so. They met there that night, as a few adherents of that Church which they had always been taught to believe upheld the sanctity of individual right, loved equity and demanded of its officers a just, a vigilant and a considerate stewardship. But who, after hearing the minutes of the Church Body read, and looking at the matter calmly and impersonally, could accept the statement that the governing council of this Church had observed those principles and had done their duty in the way they should have done? Now, at the risk of being accused of "stirring up strife in the Church"—he took it there were two kinds of strife, one in a good cause and another in a bad—he begged to submit the exact position in which the Seatholders and Subscribers stood in relation to the Church Body and to the Cathedral.

As they were informed in *Church Notes*, the Cathedral had been disestablished and disendowed. The Cathedral was maintained and the salaries of all its officers were paid from money which they subscribed. Those officers consisted of the two chaplains, the organist, and the verger. Should they withdraw their subscriptions and pew-rents the church could not continue. To protect their interests and to administer the money which they devoted to church purposes the Church Body were elected annually and pledged themselves to the fulfilment of those duties they undertook. They were responsible to the subscribers and in all equity to no one else. Under the clause of an Ordinance (No. 8 of 1899) which by their action the Church Body would

lead them to believe was so iniquitous that it

ought to be publicly burnt, the Church Body took upon themselves to make an appointment the importance of which could not be overestimated — namely, that of the senior officer — without attempting to consult the Seatholders or Subscribers, wishes or feeling, in the matter. The authority for that disregard of their feelings was Clause 8 of the Ordinance, which they claimed gave them full legal power to do as they liked with the officers and money of the Subscribers. It was a theory of equity and religion that would possibly be new to many present. Personally, though he was not a lawyer, he was not so confident as the Church Body were of the legality of their action. Clause 12 of the Regulations, however, provided that before the Church Body could fix the salary of a verger or of other — presumably Chinese — servants, they must consult the Seatholders and Subscribers in general meeting and obtain their approval. That being so and seeing that the Regulations, made subsequent to the Ordinance, required the consultation of the Seatholders and Subscribers in small and unimportant appointments, one would imagine that the appointment of their highest official demanded all the care and consideration and consultation that the Church Body and the Seatholders and Subscribers unitedly could give it. The Church Body, not recognising the right of the Seatholders and Subscribers, made the appointment on their own responsibility, and for unsatisfactory reasons kept the matter secret. Perhaps they were not happy in their action and hesitated to make it public. Their plea for the same was urgency, and the matter was apparently rushed through. No one was consulted; no applications for the post were invited and when the senior chaplain arrived in November, he found that a successor had been provisionally appointed. Even then the Seatholders and Subscribers were kept ignorant. The Church Body pleaded urgency for their mistake and yet the new chaplain would not take up his appointment until next August. Now they came to the vital point concerning the appointment, and on this he would state that personal feeling either one way or the other should not enter into the question. They had, however, not to consider the feelings of any individuals when the future of the church was at stake. The Church Body, without making any attempt whatever to secure a suitable successor, appointed one locally. One would have thought that acting entirely alone they would have recognised the needs of the Cathedral and made every provision for an even more successful future than the past had been. But on their own admission they made absolutely no attempt to go outside the Colony, and not content with depriving the Seatholders and Subscribers of their just privilege in one case, they went further, and placed in the hands of the new chaplain the engagement of a junior chaplain. In the case of the second chaplain he would suggest that any authority for engagement given should be at once revoked by telegram. The salary of the second chaplain should be increased so as to secure a fit and competent man, a good preacher, and possessing musical qualifications. If this were not done they must be prepared to face serious contingencies, which threatened the existence of the Church, and which must be apparent to every mind.

Mr. MASTER seconded.

Mr. COX said he had been connected with the Cathedral for 40 years, and he regretted very much any difference of opinion in the matter of these proceedings. In such things as the election of a senior chaplain the Seatholders and Subscribers should always be consulted. He thought that candidates should come and preach before the congregation, that the congregation might be able to make a definite selection of the preacher. With regard to the appointment of Mr. Johnson, he could not refrain from saying, although entertaining no personal feeling in the matter, that he considered that gentleman too young to be senior chaplain of St. John's Cathedral. In his opinion it required a man of about 40 or 45, and married. He had great diffidence in rising to say what he had said, but he had been compelled to state this expression of opinion. They wanted as a senior chaplain a good preacher with musical abilities. Mr. COX concluded by again referring to the expensiveness of the passage out and home being included in Mr. Johnson's agreement.

The TREASURER thought it was a great pity that the discussion had assumed such a phase. Mr. Johnson's agreement had been signed, and it was ill-advised to discuss his personal affairs at a public meeting.

Mr. GOODMAN said he had hoped it would be unnecessary for him to say anything, but with regard to Mr. Johnson's appointment, personally he went to church to get some good and to come away a better man; and as long as the services were reasonably sensible he was content. As regarded Mr. COX's remarks concerning the method adopted by Congregational churches in the selection of a preacher, that had its merits and its faults. But obviously the method could not be applied in the present case, as the body being considered was not a Dissenting one but the Cathedral Church of Hongkong. Mr. Goodman then proceeded to detail the system that had obtained in earlier years with regard to such matters and pointed out that the Seatholders and Subscribers under that system did not have in their hands the making of appointments. The Government appointed a man or did so through the Secretary of State or the Colonial Chaplain, but that power was at all times vested in the Church Body, and in support of that statement he quoted Section 7 of Ordinance 11 of 1892, which reads as follows: — "It shall be lawful for the Church Body from time to time to appoint as occasion may require one or more chaplains to perform and carry on divine worship and the services usual in the Church of England according to the rites and ceremonies thereof and to appoint such other officers as may be necessary or expedient upon such terms and conditions as they may think fit." In 1899 an amended Ordinance was introduced, Section 8 of which read as follows: — "The Church Body may appoint, as occasion may require, a chaplain and one or more assistant chaplains to perform and carry on divine worship and the services usual in the Church of England according to the rites and ceremonies of the said Church." Dealing then with Mr. Johnson's appointment, Mr. Goodman said that he could not speak with knowledge on the matter because he was in England when the appointment was made. However, he was sure they were all agreed on one point, and that was that in the Rev. Mr. Cobbold they had had an agreeable and an efficient chaplain — (hear hear) — who as they all knew was not a married man. It only showed that they could get on very well with the unmarried men. (Laughter.) Speaking for himself, Mr. Goodman did not see why they should insist on the chaplain being married if he did not want to be, and he himself would deplore such a restriction. Another chaplain had been appointed in Mr. Cobbold's place, and he trusted that he would be a first-class man — certainly a man who would encourage the musical services and help to make them bright and cheerful. Mr. Goodman regretted to see the trend events were taking and trusted there would be no ecclesiastical split or difference. As to the resolution, if it were carried by a majority some people would go away with the satisfaction of having censured the Church Body. The gentleman who had proposed the resolution, which would be a very cruel one in its bearing towards the Church Body if carried, had come there with a nicely-prepared speech, a fact which gave him an advantage over such speakers as himself. Referring to correspondence which had appeared in the morning paper, especially with reference to one in that morning's issue of the *Daily Press* signed "Church Goer" which attacked the Bishop, Mr. Goodman deemed it most unfair to influence by this means the minds of the Seatholders and Subscribers, and challenged the writer if he were present to declare himself, and to say what he had to say openly. It might have been a very brilliant letter, but it was a rather shabby trick.

Mr. MASSEE said they did not intend to question the right of the Church Body under the Ordinance to appoint a chaplain, but he thought that that body might have consulted the Seatholders and Subscribers in the matter if on no other ground than that of expediency. The Seatholders and Subscribers had nowadays to provide the funds necessary for carrying on the church, and that being so was it not reasonable to consult them in such a matter as the appointment of a senior chaplain?

—certainly the one special subject in his opinion that they should have been consulted upon. He had no personal feeling against Mr. Johnson, but as he had already stated, from the point of view of expediency the Church Body would have done better had they consulted the Seatholders and Subscribers, and the resolution now before the meeting was to place on record their opinion that they ought not always to be kept out in the cold and never given any voice in church matters. (Applause).

Mr. M. W. SLADE said that if the Church Body had called a meeting to consider the appointment they would have been shirking the responsibility cast upon them, and if at the meeting any acrimonious discussion had been introduced the Seatholders and Subscribers would have been the first to have turned round and said, "You have done wrong. You had no business to call a meeting — you are responsible." Therefore it seemed to him that the Church Body did the only possible thing they could do in making the appointment without running the risk of incurring the petty spite of Seatholders or Subscribers.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said he objected most emphatically to the term "petty spite" which had been used by two speakers. It was a question of principle, not of personality, as he was careful to state in his opening remarks. If it was any satisfaction to Mr. Goodman, who had looked repeatedly in his direction, he might also state he was not "Church Goer." Personally, he entertained no spite against any one in this matter nor against any one in the Cathedral. (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN said that he hoped it would be conceded that the Church Body had acted honourably and truly, and he would remind them that the selection of preachers in the colony was limited. As he opened the *Guardian* every week he saw that the dearth of clergy was becoming more and more accentuated, and it was very difficult to obtain a man with the qualifications necessary, especially one musically gifted. As regarded the question of expediency, he would ask them to look at the precedents during the past ten years. Seven resolutions had been passed with regard to the appointment of chaplains and assistant chaplains, and in one case the matter was referred to the Seatholders, which was not a very satisfactory instance, on account of a very narrow majority. The other six appointments were by the Church Body. He was opposed to the introduction of the Nonconformist precedent in matters connected with the Church of England. For instance, to take Shanghai, they would never have the matter referred to Seatholders, and as a matter of fact it was the universal practice in the Church of England to leave the appointments of clergy of a parish in the hands of the trustees. He had a good deal of experience in "church-making," if he could term it so, and he had been drafting an Ordinance with regard to regulations in Hongkong. The same thing prevailed in South China. He really did not think those present understood all the difficulties. It was no easy matter to get hold of men. Week after week he took up his church papers and found that a great dearth of clergy existed. The two last leading articles of the *Guardian* had reference to this matter. As a matter of fact he was always looking for men and found immense difficulty in getting them. Especially was it difficult to get men to come to the colonies, for why should a man leave a comfortable living at home to come out to a place, for instance, like Hongkong, which for some reason or other was always associated with plague and disease? With regard to the resolution, he could not believe it was the right thing to pass a vote of censure upon the Church Body for what they had done. (Applause).

The motion was then balloted and resulted — Ayes 22, Noes 16 — majority 6

The meeting then proceeded to elect the Church Body for the ensuing year, when the following were appointed — Captain the Hon. H. W. Treloar, Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C., Hon. R. Murray Ramsey, R.N., Dr. Atkinson, Mr. H. J. Gompertz, Mr. H. A. W. Slade. Mr. J. C. Peter was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN in a few concluding remarks said the motion did not censure the appointment but only the action of the Church Body. Referring to the Choir he expressed his great appreciation of the good work they were doing.

towards brightening the Cathedral services, and he could assure them that no alteration was intended in their services.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM moved a vote of thanks to the Bishop for presiding, and on behalf of the Choir thanked him for his kind appreciation, and said the Choir would be glad to learn that their musical services, instead of being discouraged, would rather be encouraged.

The meeting then dispersed.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTION DANCE.

On Friday night a subscription dance in aid of the funds of the above Society was held in the City Hall. As its title indicates, the Society has for its purpose the distribution of charity—"the noblest of all the virtues"—amongst the Colony's destitute, more especially amongst those placed in that unhappy position who actually live in the Colony. Narrow-mindedness, however, can never be charged against the Society, and frequently it has paid the passages of those who, destitute here, are certain of finding employment and friends elsewhere. In former years it was the practice of the Society to maintain its position in the mind by giving concerts, and the dance last evening is an entirely new departure—happily, two, a successful one, on which the promoters are to be congratulated. To Mrs. Hawkins first occurred the idea of substituting a dance for the annual concert, and in the arduous work connected with its organisation she was ably assisted by the other office-bearers and members of committee. Altogether 450 tickets were sold, and the large attendance necessitated the throwing open of both S. Andrew's and S. George's Halls for dancing. The stairways and the various rooms were profusely decorated with potted plants, set off by a number of Chinese lanterns. The band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Bandmaster Moir, supplied the music with their wonted efficiency, and a most enjoyable social evening was spent.

The following are the Office-bearers of the Society:—Miss Anderson (president), Mrs. Siebs (vice-president), Mrs. Poate (hon. secretary), Mrs. Robinson (hon. treasurer). Committee—Mrs. Hoare, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. France, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Forbes, and Mrs. Master.

PEKING.

Peking, 7th January.

THE COURT RETURNS.

To-day, the first Tuesday in the New Year 1902, January the 7th, must be put down as most memorable in the history of the Manchu dynasty. The Court has actually returned to its capital—the Court which includes both the Emperor and the Regent Empress Dowager.

They have dared to come. The Powers have cared to permit them. The Government is reinaugurated and reunited. International relations have been opened. Oriental splendour, as of the entrance of a conqueror, shone forth to-day as few have seen it before in this ancient capital of an ancient Empire. There was nothing to mar the occasion or hamper the procession, unless we except the cold north wind and the dry dust of busy thoroughfares.

MILITARY DISPLAY.

The military reception began as far back as Lukochiau, extending along the railway past Feng-tai to the station at Machinp'u. The soldiers were the well-dressed, well-trained men under Generals Chiang Kuei-ti and Ma-Yu-kun. These Generals, with Prince Ching, who returned yesterday from Paotingfu, Vice-President Na Tung, and others awaited the two Imperial trains at Machiap'u.

The station was a newly erected one, made of yellow cloth or satin arranged as tents, and a pavilion for the Imperial Majesties to pass beneath, while waiting for the final march into the city.

THE ORDER OF MARCH.

By noon the great procession began to move. Prince Ching was the first conspicuous man to lead the way. Then followed soldiers on foot and on horse-back, eunuchs and other attendants, likewise on horse-back, the red carts of nobles and ordinary carts, yellow-covered sedan

chairs with the Emperor, the Empress Dowager, the Empress, the concubines of the Emperor, the concubines of the former Emperor Tung Chih, and others, with yellow satin pillows, and a fine company of high officials and nobles with yellow jackets. Banners with beautiful decorative honours were here and there carried by gaily-decked attendants. The whole procession required nearly two hours to pass.

FEW SPECTATORS.

On either side of the broad street in the city were lined the soldiers of General Chiang, who presented a fine appearance, making this procession better than any that Peking has witnessed. Behind these Chinese soldiers were officials, gentry, and the Manchu troops and city police, dressed in all the colours of the rainbow. The people, who first crowded the street, were driven into the shops or into the side alleys behind the mat curtains. As the yellow banners appeared in sight, and the Emperor drew near, every one knelt on the ground. Here and there a foreigner might have been seen standing with hat lifted, though the Ministers at the request of the Foreign Office had directed all foreigners to remain off the main street.

PRIVILEGED FOREIGNERS.

The Foreign Office had made arrangements for the foreigners to witness the procession. Three large shops had been set apart for people of the Legations and a few invited guests. They were able to sit on an open porch on the second floor, in full view of the distinguished rulers of the land. The Ministers themselves did not avail themselves of the courteous offer, but there were plenty of others. The Emperor himself did not show his face or notice either his own officials or the foreign visitors. The Empress Dowager, however, as she caught sight of a foreigner, held back the curtain of her chair and bowed. Several times she smiled, and in one case, as she saw the wife of a Foreign Minister, whom she had once admitted to audience, she pointed her finger in recognition, and bowed smilingly. At the open court in the Chienmen gateway both the Emperor and Empress Dowager dismounted from their chairs and went into two little temples to burn incense to the tutelary spirits of the city. The circular wall of the great city gate was lined with many other foreign spectators, and the Empress Dowager as she gazed upward to the throng, smiled and shook her hands in respectful recognition. The Emperor here also noticed no one.

SMILES AND SYMPATHY.

The almost general exclamation of the foreign spectators was in honour and to the favour of the Empress Dowager. A smile scattered all feelings of disgust and displeasure. She entered the palace as captor of the sympathies of all foreigners. And yet, it may not be wise to totally ignore the crimes and cruelty of the past and accept the interpretation that she is innocent of all wrong. The calamities of the Empire rest at her door for permitting her advisers to rush forward into a carnival of blood, terror, and fanaticism. Once, and only a few months ago, the Foreign Ministers in discussing the question of compelling the abdication of the Regency of the Empress Dowager, remarked that that matter could be left to the time of actual return. "Of course she will never be allowed to again exercise authority." But here she is, chief factor in the procession, real ruler of the palace and the Empire.

WHY NOT?

It may, indeed, be best to allow her to continue to direct the affairs of State at this critical juncture, for she certainly has the commanding will and the matchless mind. The Emperor seems to be incapacitated. But one thing remains. If it is not the business of other Powers to concern themselves with Court intrigues; if the Emperor has *pro forma* requested the Empress Dowager to resume the Regency (September, 1898), and if she is *de facto* Sovereign, why should not the Foreign Ministers have their audiences with her, and at once openly begin to have dealings with her concerning all that pertains to the improved relations of China with the world? Why leave it to their wives?—*N.-C. Daily News*.

A fishery convention between China and Corea is about to be signed.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of the 11th inst.:

The Legation students gave a dance on Monday night. The peculiar social conditions of Peking were curiously reflected in the attendance, seven ladies and close on seventy men.

Football is going extremely strong in Peking just now, and new "sides" are seen in every match. The Americans beat the Welsh Fusiliers and then challenged the British officers, but only to suffer defeat in turn. The French are developing great partiality for the game, and play "big" sides among themselves. The Austrians are now about to begin. All find abundance of room either in or adjoining their Legations. A piece of ground near the Austrian Legation is being prepared for Polo.

Col. Salis and the Italian officers celebrated the birthday of the Queen of Italy on Tuesday last by giving a concert at Headquarters. The proceedings terminated with a dance of which a fine cotillion was the chief feature. Signora Denti received the lady guests. The whole function was heartily enjoyed by the appreciative visitors.

We have great pleasure in stating that the Tsar has presented Captain Munthe of the Imperial Maritime Customs (detached) with the Cross of St. George in recognition of his valour in saving the life of a Russian staff-officer on the march to Peking. The incident referred to occurred outside the gates of Peking, and thanks to the modesty of the gallant Norwegian ex-cavalryman has until now been unknown to his most intimate friends.

One of the most unexpected incidents of the return of the Court was the audience to which Mr. Foley of the Imperial Chinese Railways was summoned at Feng-tai. The Dowager sent for him, passed the usual complimentary questions as to his age, country, service, &c., and then calling the Emperor, herself presented the Traffic Manager to His Majesty. The incident may serve to show how the Court zephyrs are blowing at the moment, and is in strict harmony with the courtesy described by our Honan correspondent at Chung-teh-fu. We understand that M. Sadot of the Lu-han railway was treated similarly to Mr. Foley, and was further decorated with the Double Dragon, "Kwae awkehsia, hsia." ("Bow the knee") and, to quote the language of Thackeray, instantly the lieges were in the mud, but observe that for the first time on record they were not abasing their heads, but intelligently looking at the Imperial travellers.

The chairs were in their usual state of gaudiness, and were borne by eight men; in addition to a large accompanying body of relays, there seemed to be infinite numbers of bearers *en route*. The men had long coats of red and purple silk with the character for longevity largely imprinted or embroidered, white trousers and black boots. The colour of the five great chairs was Imperial yellow, while it was red for those of the lesser folk. We tabulated the order of the procession as follows, but the whole was of that tawdry shoddy character that Chinese "shows" usually present to occidental eyes.

1. Extra chair-men with Torreador-like hats.
2. Ma's cavalrymen on white unkempt horses.
3. Yuan's cavalrymen on foreign bay horses (apparently ungroomed since their purchase).
4. General Ma in an Imperial yellow jacket.
5. Viceroy Yuan's infantry.
6. Umbrella men.
7. I. M. Kwan Ssu with his body guard.
8. Infantry soldiers.
9. General Ching-Kwae-Tai.
- (An interval)
10. More of Ma's cavalry.
11. More of Yuan's cavalry.
12. More of Yuan's infantry.
13. The Viceroy Yuan-Shih-Kai with two men of huge stature acting as esquires.
14. Banners and umbrellas galore.
15. The Dowager Empress in a chair with trappings precisely like those of the Emperor.
16. A ta-jen who was said to be Yung Lu, but whom we did not recognise as such.
17. Three yellow chairs bearing ladies (? The Empress and those women who contribute to the glory of an oriental king).

18. Soldiers with odd-shaped hats.
 19. Women of the Court in red chairs.
 20. Vast numbers of Court officials on horse-back.

At the Chien Men, many foreigners had come to see the show, and notwithstanding assurance to the contrary by the Chinese officials, they found no difficulty whatever in getting access to places from which they could easily see the procession. Nor did the officials show any resentment when many cameras were leveled at the Imperial chairs. The Emperor and Empress both, at least while passing our *locus standi*, seemed to be keenly alive to the whole proceedings, and showed great interest in everything, especially was this the case at Chien Men. The Dowager actually leaned forward in her chair, and bowed in the most marked manner to the foreigners. The latter courteously raised their hats, and some of them actually raised a small cheer. The Royalties left their chairs to perform some act of worship at small shrines, and then went on straight into the Palace.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PLAQUE AND SANITATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
 Hongkong, 17th January.

SIR.—Having heard that a case of plague was discovered yesterday in a district which has quite recently undergone disinfection by the officers of the Sanitary Board, I should like to ascertain what induced the authorities here to sanction such a large disinfecting scheme, in view of the very imperfect knowledge they possess with regard to the origin and recurrence of the disease. I remember when the scheme was under consideration some one had the temerity to ask if this large undertaking was in the nature of an experiment or whether it had been ascertained that disinfection proved efficacious in other places visited by plague.

On reading the excellent article in your issue of 14th inst. taken from the *Times of India* I was not surprised that the authorities failed to give a satisfactory reply to that pertinent inquiry. In the article Professor Fraser, President of the Indian Plague Committee, admits the gravely important share in propagating plague contributed by rats, but insists that the preponderating factor in the extension of the disease, and even its fatality, is the vitiation of air in dwellings, and urges that some of the money now spent upon such palliatives as disinfection and the removal of filth might be profitably devoted to improve the permanent ventilation of dwelling-houses. This is a startling piece of advice in view of what is taking place here and may well cause the authorities to pause in pursuing their disinfecting operations which are being conducted at such expense and with grave inconvenience to the native inhabitants of the Colony. Professor Fraser confines himself almost exclusively to recommending measures for the prevention of plague, and is unfortunately silent as to the cause of the disease recurring after lying dormant for several months.

I gather from the article referred to that plague does not arise from dirt in the sense of refuse, that it is independent of climate, and that primarily it is not a soil disease. Where then do the bacilli find a resting place while lying dormant?—Yours, etc.,

OLD RESIDENT.

THE CATHEDRAL CHAPLAINCY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
 22nd January.

SIR.—The annual meeting of Seatholders and Subscribers will be held to-morrow (Thursday) afternoon, and it is earnestly to be hoped that all who possibly can will make a point of being present. There can be little doubt to those who have given the matter a thought that we have arrived at a crisis in Church matters, and it rests entirely with the congregation of S. John's Cathedral to determine whether they will insist upon their just rights or be content to waive them, and allow the Bishop to usurp

practically supreme control over the running of the Cathedral services, and the spending of their money—for this, after all, is the main point at issue.

The Church Body, which by its recent action—or rather, want of it—has brought us to the present lamentable pass, duly retires at the meeting, and it behoves the Seatholders and Subscribers to see that they elect a really representative Church Body to serve them during the ensuing year. It should consist of a body of men *really* representative of *all* classes of the Church-going community; of men who take an *active* interest in Church matters; of men who will, to the best of their ability, faithfully carry out their duties to those who have elected them.

The outlook is of such a serious and gloomy nature that we cannot afford to let questions of sentiment, or the hurting of the feelings of a few, interfere with the welfare and rights of the many. Unless the Seatholders and Subscribers are prepared to take up a really strong position now, there can be little doubt that even our present troubles are slight compared with those which will come in the near future. I repeat, the remedy is in the hands of the Seatholders and Subscribers; let them see to it that their rights are maintained.—Yours, etc.,

CHURCH-GOER.

SPORT IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
 23rd January.

SIR.—An advertisement in your issue of this morning is calculated to raise a smile when perused by those who take an intelligent interest in racing matters in this Colony. It informs the public at large that part of the programme for the "off day" will consist of races for horses and ponies *not entered for any of the official events*, to wit, the "Kowloon Stakes" for all horses, and the "Open Stakes" for all ponies 14 hands 2 inches and under. For each event five entrants in *separate interests* are compulsory. Do the Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club imagine that there is a large contingent of race-horse owners on the Kowloon side anxious to enter their animals, or that there is a plethora of *Australian, English, Indian country bred, Arab, and China ponies* in training on the off-chance of being allowed to compete for a \$250 race? This joke on the part of the Jockey Club was got off last year when a similar advertisement appeared, and resulted in the horse-race being withdrawn—there being no horses. The other, I believe, produced four starters and was won by *Kangaroo*, a polo pony who did the half mile in 54 seconds, which entitled him to a place at the regular meeting. The Jockey Club must know, or should know, that there is no more likelihood of both of these proposed races filling this year than they did last. Apart from animals entered for the *official events*, there are at the present moment only *Lady Mary, Kangaroo, Esau*, and a few polo ponies, and few owners will care to risk spoiling a good polo pony for a \$250 race. If the Stewards were really anxious to provide sport for the above animals they could easily have done so by allowing them entry to the Handicap on the third day, now confined to Hongkong and Shanghai wagers. Out of the thirty races at the meeting it is not too much for residents to expect one race open to all horses in the Colony, especially in view of the fact that any member who can afford it is allowed to purchase the pick of the Hongkong and Shanghai horses that have run at previous meetings.—Yours, etc.,

OLD OAR.

The *Cologne Gazette* states that the German Navy Budget for 1902 provides for the supply of a third river gunboat for China. The two boats at present there, the *Vorwärts* and *Schamien*, were formerly river passenger and cargo-boats which were bought from the English during the recent troubles in China and converted into gunboats. The first was built at Shanghai in 1899, and the second at Hongkong in 1900. The new boat will be built in Germany and will be the first of the kind ever constructed there. It is destined for the Peiho river, where Germany is at present unrepresented.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

The fourteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held on the 23rd inst. in the offices, Victoria Buildings. Hon. J. J. Bell Irving (Chairman) presided and there were also present Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. A. J. Raymond, A. Haupt, H. P. White, N.A. Siebs, D. M. Moses, (Directors), Mowbray S. Northcote (Acting Secretary), J. Goosmann, R. K. Leigh, R. C. Wilcox, C. S. Sharp, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, E. E. Ray, E. Georg, A. Denison, G. L. Tomlin, G. H. Dann, S. S. Benjamin, etc.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission I shall treat the report and accounts as read. At the last annual meeting your Directors had a very favourable report to put before you and the present one, which covers the first clear 32 months since the Company has been working on the fully paid up capital of \$5,000,000, it is hoped may also be considered as satisfactory. The profits for 1901 including the amount brought forward from the previous account amounted to \$680,877.04, equal to a little over 13½ per cent. on this capital, the falling off as compared with the previous year being accounted for by the fewer sales of property.

Directing your attention in the first instance to our revenue derived from interest you still observe a gross increase of \$93,600, due to the fact that interest on monies allowed to remain on mortgages of properties sold during 1900 has been received over the full period; this is reduced to a net increase of some \$87,000 by the amount paid upon borrowed money of which you will see we have availed ourselves to a greater extent than in the previous year. Our rent account shows a falling off \$3,000, consequent on the sale of properties during 1900, amounting to nearly \$800,000, from which we received revenue for a portion at least of that year; the loss from this cause is to some extent minimised by the income from new properties which have become yielding during 1901, and the account will be still further improved by the revenue to be derived from properties as yet not fully developed, but which we hope will be out of the architects' hands during the next few months. The Chairman at the last annual meeting informed you that we had property undeveloped standing in the Company's book at \$1,600,000, a portion of which would shortly become yielding. Such has been the case, and I am pleased to be able to state that these newly developed properties are giving us a good return on the capital invested; you will understand, however, that while some properties appearing as unproductive in our statement for that year have since given us some return, it has only been for a portion of the year and that further capital has been required for the development of other properties not yet completed so that the amount remains at practically the same figure, \$1,600,000, of which some \$470,000 will shortly be yielding. This will not, however, necessarily reduce the amount remaining in undeveloped property by that sum, since payments will fall to be made on other properties as the work of developing them progresses. A projected and most desirable scheme for the improvement of the Eastern district of the Colony will when carried out necessitate a considerable outlay. It may interest you to know that large blocks of our property not yet ready for occupation have already been leased as from the time of their occupation at figures which will give us a handsome return on their cost to the Company. During the past twelve months the amount on mortgages has decreased by a small amount whilst the money invested in property has increased however 5 lakhs of dollars, and it is the aim of your Directors to further add to the Company's holding of real estate as favourable opportunities occur. There is ample margin on all mortgages, and the buildings on the Company's properties are in good repair. I am glad to state that we have commenced the present year with two sales giving very satisfactory margins of profit, and I may also mention that taking the present value of property in this Colony these held by the Company in every instance stand in the books on a lower basis and in many cases would

show considerable margins of profit if realised. Gentlemen, altogether prospects for the future at present appear promising. I shall now be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions were asked.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no questions, I beg to move the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen—I am sure the shareholders present have all listened with much gratification to the statement just given of the financial position and future prospects of the Company. The report may well be considered satisfactory, for though it does not announce the wonderful results achieved in 1900, it does record a handsome profit on the working, with which the most exacting should be content. It is true the profit on sales of property is small compared with that of 1900, but it is greater than we have been accustomed to, and there is a substantial increase in the interest earned on investments, which is a good feature, showing sound development. The explanation afforded to the meeting as to the employment of some sixteen lakhs of dollars in the development of properties shows that we may look for a large increase in earnings when these properties are completed and let, an amount probably sufficient to fully make up for any falling off in profits from sales of properties in the future. Though the land boom has now subsided, values of property are in most cases, I believe, fully maintained, and there seems no reason to fear any slump except perhaps in a few isolated instances where properties were unduly inflated by Chinese speculators. Of the numerous houses now in course of erection many are let in advance and those which are not let quickly find tenants. I should of course like to have seen—as no doubt you all would—another addition to our reserve for equalisation of dividends of say a quarter of a million dollars, bringing it up to a million, but, as I have said, we must not look for speedy repetitions of phenomenal years, and we should be well content with the good things laid up for us in the times of plenty. Much credit is due to the management for the excellent results attained, and which are the fruits of special knowledge, great foresight, and careful calculation. I have great pleasure, Mr. Chairman, in seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. BENJAMIN—I beg to propose the confirmation of Mr. H. P. White's appointment as a Director in place of Mr. J. H. Lewis.

Mr. GOOSMANN seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. HO TUNG—I beg to propose the re-election as Directors of Messrs. A. Haupt and H. P. White, who retire by rotation.

Mr. TOMLIN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. DANN—I beg to move that Messrs. F. Henderson and J. C. Peter be re-elected Auditors.

Mr. RAY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business.

The following is the report:—

Gentlemen—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the company, and balance-sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1901.

The net profits for that period, including \$10,151.01 balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$680,877.04. From this amount an interim dividend of \$6 per share has already been paid. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$6 per share making a total dividend of 12 per cent. per annum on the capital, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$8,305.04 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. J. H. Lewis having resigned his seat, Mr. H. P. White was invited to join the board in his place, and this now requires confirmation.

Messrs. A. Haupt and H. P. White now retire by rotation but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and J. C. Peter, who now retire but offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. BELL-IRVING,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.	
31st Dec., 1901.	LIABILITIES.
Paid-up capital	\$ 5,000,000.00
Equalisation of dividend fund	750,000.00
Accounts payable	933,412.31
Balance of profit and loss account	\$ 680,877.04
Less interim dividend paid	300,000.00
	380,877.04
	\$7,064,289.35

ASSETS.	
31st Dec., 1901.	\$ c.
Cash	65.12
Amount advanced on mortgage	3,737,057.79
Amount invested in property	3,932,523.85
Furniture account	3,674.29
Accounts receivable	54,268.31
	\$7,064,289.35

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To interim dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year	300,000.00
31st Dec.	
To charges account	29,022.17
To repairs to house property	13,799.76
To advertising	406.90
To fire insurance	6,999.35
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' fees	\$ 7,500.00
Managing directors' fees	64,072.00
Auditors' fees	1,000.00
Final dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year	300,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account	8,305.04
	380,877.04
	\$781,105.23

Cr.	
1st Jan., 1901.	\$ c.
By undivided profits, 1900	49,151.01
31st Dec.	
By interest on mortgages	\$219,747.12
Less—Interest on loans payable	31,106.96
	188,640.16
By rents	217,180.84
By commission	9,237.90
By scrip fees	341.00
By profit on sales of property	275,554.31
	\$731,105.22

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.

The thirteenth ordinary meeting of Shareholders in the West Point Building Co., Ltd. was held on the 23rd inst. in the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings. Hon. C. P. Chater, C. M. G., (Chairman) presided and there were also present Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Messrs. C. S. Sharp, A. J. Raymond, (Directors), Mowbray S. Northcote (Acting Secretary), J. Goosmann, A. Haupt, R. K. Leigh, N. Mody, C. W. Dickson, and Graca.

The notice calling the meeting having been read.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. The profit for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous account, amounted to \$40,609.87 as against \$41,612.47 for 1900. A glance at the debit side of profit and loss account will at once explain this slight decrease, revealing as it does an increase in the amount paid for insurance of \$1,200 and in repairs to property of \$1,600. The enhanced value of property made it imperative for our own protection that there should be a re-valuation for insurance purposes, which accounts for the increased charge for premia. Turning to the item for repairs, the increase here is mainly due to our having had to replace several of the beams carrying the verandahs to the property in Des Voeux Road West, in all cases iron girder's having been substituted for the old wooden beams, and I regret to have to inform you that our architects deem it necessary to make a like change to all the houses in this street, which it is estimated will cost us

about \$4,500: in view of the fact that our income from rents is now a fixed one, your Directors have deemed it advisable to provide in some measure for this contemplated outlay and therefore recommend the payment of a dividend at \$1.60 per share and the carrying forward of a larger balance than usual. Before moving the adoption of the report, I shall be pleased to answer any question.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no questions, I beg to propose the adoption of the report.

Mr. C. W. DICKSON seconded and the report were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business, gentlemen is the confirmation of the appointment of Hon. J. J. Bell Irving as Director.

Mr. LEIGH—I beg to propose the confirmation of the appointment of Hon. J. J. Bell Irving as Director in place of Hon. J. J. Keswick.

Mr. GOOSMANN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. HAUP—I beg to propose the re-election of Hon. C. P. Chater and Mr. C. S. Sharp as Directors.

Mr. LEIGH seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. GOOSMANN—I beg to move to re-election of Mr. Fullarton Henderson as Auditor.

Mr. GRACA seconded, and the motion was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen.

The following is the report:—

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$40,609.87. From this amount an interim dividend of \$1.50 per share has already been paid, and after writing off director's and auditor's fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$1.60 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$3.10 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$1,309.87 to credit of new profit and loss account.

DIRECTOR.

Hon. J. J. Keswick having retired, Hon. J. J. Bell Irving has been appointed in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

AUDIT.

Hon. C. P. Chater and Mr. C. S. Sharp retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Fullarton Henderson, who now retires but offers himself for re-election.

MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Acting Secretary to the Hongkong Land
Investment & Agency Co., Ltd.,
General Agents for the West
Point Building Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 10th January, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, To 31st December, 1901.	
Capital	\$ 625,000.00
Accounts payable	724.56
Balance of profit and loss account	\$40,609.87
Less interim dividend paid	18,750.00
	21,859.87
	\$617,584.43

ASSETS.	
Cost of property	\$ 611,830.80
Cash	2,503.63
Accounts receivable	33,250.00

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	
To interim dividend of \$1.50 for half-year	18,750.00
31st Dec.	
To fire insurance	3,247.75
To charges account	428.95
To crown rent and rates	7,298.38
To repairs to property	2,783.50
To commission to agents	2,114.34
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' fees	\$500.00
Auditor's fees	50.00
Dividend of \$1.60 per share	20,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account	1,309.87
	21,859.87
	\$56,482.79

1st Jan., 1901.	Cr.	\$ c.
By balance brought forward		437.47
31st Dec.		
By rents		54,480.38
By interest		1,514.94
By scrip fees		50.00
		<u>\$56,432.79</u>

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

The report of the directors for the year ending the 31st December, 1901, for presentation to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, at noon, on the 27th inst., is as follows:—

Gentlemen.—The Directors now beg to submit to you their report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1901.

The net profit for that period amounts to \$255,848.32

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account 13,275.70

\$269,124.02

And from this have to be deducted—
Remuneration to Directors, 5% commission on net profits \$12,792.42

Remuneration to General Managers 5% commission on net profits 12,792.42

\$25,584.84

Leaving available for appropriation \$243,539.18

The Directors recommend that a dividend of \$1.00 or ten per cent. on the paid-up capital be paid to the Shareholders, that \$100,000 be passed to Permanent Reserve Fund, 25,000 to Equalisation of Dividend Fund and the balance of \$18,539.18 to new Profit and Loss Account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. C. S. Sharp and H. W. Slade were invited to join and accepted seats on the Board. The Board of Directors now consists of Messrs. J. S. Van Euren, C. Ewens, C. S. Sharp, H. W. Slade, and Ho Tung. In accordance with Rule 76 of the Articles of Association all these gentlemen retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The Accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. W. H. Gaskell, who offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY HUMPHREYS,

Chairman.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1902.

The following are the accounts:—

BALANCE-SHEET,

For the year ending 31st December, 1901.

LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Capital account, 100,000 shares of \$10 each	1,000,000.00	
Fund for equalisation of dividends	25,000.00	
Permanent reserve fund	100,000.00	
Unclaimed dividends	639.50	
Sundry creditors	5,469.07	
Profit and loss account		
Amount carried forward from last year	\$13,275.70	
For the year 1901	255,848.32	
	<u>269,124.02</u>	
		<u>\$1,400,232.59</u>

ASSETS.		\$ c.
Amount invested in property	741,655.54	
Amount invested on mortgage	621,748.13	
Secured loans	10,159.45	
Rents due and accounts receivable	3,949.96	
Office furniture	500.00	
Cash in Hongkong and Shing-hai Bank	\$22,855.66	
Cash in hand	13.85	
	<u>22,869.51</u>	
		<u>\$1,400,232.59</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To general charges	2,612.47
To Crown rent	2,100.29
To fire insurance	4,184.37
To repairs	1,863.40
To allowance to General Managers to cover office rent and salaries of secretary and clerks	4,000.00
To Balance	269,124.02
	<u>\$233,884.55</u>

Cr.	\$ c.
By amount carried forward from 1900	13,275.70
By profit on sales of properties and investments	196,971.79
By rents	33,794.45
By interest	37,307.11
By commission account	2,071.50
By transfer fees	464.00
	<u>\$233,884.55</u>

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 18th December.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

BIGAMY.

Frederick Gilbert Hanson was charged with having on 14th July, 1890, at Holy Trinity Church, Upper Chelsea, in the county of Middlesex, England, married Minnie Weston, spinster, and afterwards, while so married, bigamously married Helen Emily Lucas, the said Minnie Weston being then and there alive.

He pleaded guilty.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C.)—The prisoner, your Lordship, desires to make a statement. I do not know what that statement may be; I will have very few remarks to make on the case, and I think I had better reserve them until afterwards.

His Lordship—You plead guilty to a charge of bigamy; what have you got to say?

The Prisoner—I would wish it to be thoroughly understood that not the slightest blame can be attributed to Miss Lucas or her friends in this matter at all, and, secondly, I admit the marriage to my cousin at Holy Trinity Church, Chelsea, but during a visit to my friends seven months afterwards—or in July, 1891—I ascertained that by marrying my cousin I had practically married my own flesh and blood, and that the outcome of such a marriage was invariably imbeciles or cripples.

His Lordship—What was she—what sort of a cousin?

The Prisoner—My first cousin, my Lord.

His Lordship—Well, there have been marriages of that class before.

The Prisoner—That was what I was given to understand. Being disgusted at the way I had been treated and induced into such a marriage, I sought legal advice and ascertained that that marriage having taken place while I was a minor and against the wish of my people, it was avoidable and could be set aside.

His Lordship—You got legal advice.

The Prisoner—Yes.

His Lordship—I am glad to hear it.

The Prisoner—This I at once communicated to my cousin, and told her that I was determined to take legal steps to have this marriage set aside. But for three days she begged me not to take this action, for two reasons. The first was the terrible disgrace it would be to the whole of her friends, and the second was the age and state of health of her mother, whom she was afraid such a shock would kill. We both arranged then that I would not take any legal action. We were to thoroughly understand that we had no legal claim whatever on one another and that we should discontinue all intercourse with one another and treat one another as servant and employer. This we continued to do and I might state that we both took a solemn oath and swore on the Bible that that was how we should go on, and that is how we lived for some years. I brought her here, always occupying different apartments, and I took her home again. While in Cork we had bother over my cousin opening a private letter of mine, and I threw up the whole of my service. I was in the Engineers and had 14 years' service, and during the last six of these I was a company sergeant-major. I had every prospect of rapid advancement and a thorough good pension at the end of seven years. I threw up the whole of that service, with the intention of taking action to have that marriage cancelled then, but I was prevailed upon at the last moment to let the matter drop, still on account of her mother, but I sent her away and did not see her or hear about her for

another seven months afterwards, when I wrote to her sister in London about some certificates I wanted relating to the marriage; the answer I got was a visit from my cousin herself, who begged me again to let her come back on the same conditions, as housekeeper, on account of the better respect among her friends. This I did and we both returned to London five or six months afterwards. Afterwards we stayed with her sister for some two or three months, and again I left her, finally. I have never lived with her or had any dealings with her since, except that two or three days before I left England for Hongkong I met her accidentally in London and told her I was proceeding to Hongkong and that as soon as I arrived I should certainly get married and settle down. She asked me then to make some provision in order to set up in some business, and I promised to do so as soon as I got settled in Hongkong. I arrived here in November. In December I sent her a sum of money with the intimation that that was the last she would hear from me. In January I got an answer to that letter, acknowledging the money, and requesting that I would inform her how she should account for my silence. I wrote to her and informed her I would send a telegram stating I would resign my berth here and was leaving the Colony. That telegram I sent towards the end of February. My Lord, knowing of course that that woman had been out here for three or four years and had plenty of friends and was in the habit of communicating with these friends regularly, doesn't it stand to reason that I should have more commonsense than to go and get married again here secretly or try to do so? I thoroughly understood and believed that I had a perfect legal right to contract this second marriage, and so had she; and I have not the slightest doubt but what she has all the way through believed that I had, for two or three reasons. She quite agreed with me living in Cork, when I met her in London she raised no objection, and when I wrote in December, 1900, and told her I was married—I told her then I was married—it was quite clear she evidently expected it and agreed to it, seeing that she did not take any action at all until the end of this last year. It is through nothing but a piece of jealousy and hatred on the part of two or three people here and her brother-in-law in London that this affair has come out.

His Lordship—Have you anything more to say?

The Prisoner—I think, my Lord, for all I have suffered from the beginning to the end—being deprived of all the privileges and pleasures of a married life, throwing up the whole of my service and prospects, coming out here and settling down, and now this case being brought against me upsetting the whole of my life and affairs here—it has been a pretty heavy punishment. I have suffered seven weeks' imprisonment in Victoria also. I quite assure you I had no intention or thought of committing such a serious crime. I thoroughly believed and understood that I had a perfect right to get married here without any fear. Moreover, I can tell you this, that until this affair was mentioned three or four weeks before I was married, so sure I was of my case—that I had a right to get married—that I never even attempted to start a defense or leave the Colony.

His Lordship—As far as I recollect from the depositions there is a witness swears that when you came here you stated to him that your wife was dead. That is rather against your argument.

The Prisoner—That is what we agreed to in the first place.

His Lordship—That is what you said, and it is all against your argument.

The Prisoner—That is what we agreed to in the first place, that we should take no action against each other in the event of either marrying. We quite agreed upon that.

The Attorney-General—Of course, your Lordship, I am quite unable to say how far the statement made by the prisoner is correct and true or not. The first wife is not here, and if she were she might of course have a very different tale to tell; but I cannot say. The facts in the case are simply these. Defendant was formerly in the Royal Engineers and was stationed at Hongkong. He joined in 1885

and was attested in March of that year. The second marriage was not until December, 1900, so that it must have been over 15 years after he joined the Engineers that he made this second marriage. He was married in England on the 14th July, 1893, that is, five years and three months after being attested in the Engineers. I do not know what age they take people into the Engineers, but I should imagine that, having joined the Royal Engineers and been attested in March, 1885, when it came to July, 1900, which is five years and three months afterwards, he must have been certainly not a minor at all at the time of his marriage.

The Prisoner—I was under 16 years when I joined the Engineers, my Lord.

The Attorney General—I have the date of his joining here. He left Hongkong in February, 1898, and at that time was still in the Royal Engineers; and his wife left with him. While they were here they lived in the married quarters at Lyeemun. He returned alone to Hongkong in November, 1900, and was met by Crombie, a warrant officer of the Royal Engineers, who knew his wife and inquired for her. Prisoner told Crombie that his wife was dead. Then on 1st December he went through the form of marriage with this woman, who is a teacher at the St. Francis Convent, Wanchai. In the marriage certificate he is described as '8 years of age. His age must be considerably over that, because if he joined the Engineers in 1885, and it was more than 15 years before this second marriage, he must have been considerably over 30. The only thing I have in the way of an official record to show that he is not speaking correctly is as to his age. But as to anybody telling him that because he married his cousin—there are thousands and thousands of such marriages—it was therefore legal to marry another woman, he must have been very foolish indeed; as to his being a minor at the time, I can only say that the records are absolutely against that. I see in the depositions the age he has put down is 35. I should think that is very much nearer. Therefore, there being no basis his remarks fall to the ground. I do not wish to say anything in aggravation. The man has pleaded guilty. I do not wish to press for an unduly severe punishment, but I do not think his account of the separation from his first wife, who I understand to be an extremely respectable woman, tends to lessen the offence.

His Lordship, in passing sentence, said—Prisoner at the bar, I have listened to your statement. You said a good deal which would have been better left unsaid. Half of your statement I cannot believe. You must abide by one thing or another. You said you were 28 at the time of the marriage: that is absurd, because at that rate you must have joined the Engineers when 13. I have no pity for you at all; you have ruined two women in this way. The sentence of the Court will be two years hard labour.

LARCENY.

Wong Lam, a tailor, was charged with stealing two pieces of satin and one of crape. He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled:—J. H. Jessen, B. M. Castro, Chow Dart Tong, H. C. Sandford, W. E. Pucker, T. Blair, and H. A. W. Slade.

After evidence, which showed that the cloth was entrusted with the defendant to be made into garments and that he pawned it under false names and addresses, the jury found the charge proven.

His Lordship passed sentence of 18 months.

This case came before the Sessions as the offence was committed more than six months ago and was therefore outwith the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court.

A similar case was that in which Wun San got 18 months' hard labour for stealing certain articles of clothing from a house in Victoria where he lodged nearly two years ago—on 21st February, 1900. He disappeared up country at the time, but was noticed in the street a week or so ago by one of the men whose property he had stolen and handed over to the police.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH. (ACTING PUISNÉ JUDGE).

KWOK KAM CHUN v. COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

Plaintiff claimed restricted damages of \$1,000 for injuries alleged to have been caused to his fishing junk *Cheung Kwan Lee* by being run down by defendant's steamer *Indus* on 22nd September last in the neighbourhood of the island of Pedro Blanco. Evidence had been completed on Monday last.

Mr. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, appeared for the plaintiff, instructed by Mr. John Hays of Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors; and defendants were represented by Mr. John Hastings, solicitor.

His Lordship, in delivering judgment, said that he had given the case some consideration since last sitting in Court, and the question before him was what ship came into collision with the junk. He went on to deal with the evidence adduced regarding the positions of the junk and the steamer at the time they were alleged to have collided, and also reviewed the facts submitted in relation to the current running. As to the question of collision, he commented on the evidence of both parties concerning the point, and observed that a feature of the defendant's evidence was that no shock was felt to the ship.

As to the point raised regarding the white hull and black funnels of the *Indus*, his Lordship said that as a jury he had taken the opportunity of going across the harbour while the steamer was in port and passing very close to her bows. When going over to Kowloon he could not distinguish her colour, though when returning he got a better sight of her and could just see faintly that she was white. That was his only experience in the matter, and of course the ship was in harbour, where probably it was more favourable than the conditions out at sea. On the whole, on that point he was of the opinion that it was very unlikely that the people on board of the junk could in the panic of collision have taken such minute notice of the steamer as they stated they did. It had been urged that the plaintiff when coming into Hongkong had no knowledge of the ship which had collided with him, but only the knowledge that he had been run into. It was not until he had been in Hongkong and had made enquiries that he was aware, according to Mr. Hastings, of which ship it was thought to be. His Lordship proceeded to deal with the question of the paint being scratched off the bows and pointed out they had heard the evidence of the officer on board whose special duty it was to make a round of the ship on her arrival in harbour and see whether any paint was off or not. His evidence was clear and definite on the point, for he stated absolutely there were no signs of a collision having occurred. That was a point upon which the plaintiff laid considerable stress, and, it seemed to His Lordship, a point which had not been proved to the satisfaction of the Court. It was quite true that had the *Indus* been in collision with a junk there must have been some paint scratched off, but the evidence on that point was of such a nature that he could not accept it against the testimony of an officer whose special duty it was to make a round of the ship and see whether or not paint had been scratched off. The onus of proof, he concluded, having been on the plaintiff to satisfy the Court on the evidence that the steamer which collided with the junk was the *Indus*, belonging to the defendant company, that onus, in his opinion, had not been discharged, and the defendant company would therefore have judgment with costs.

Monday, 20th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ARMED ROBBERY.

Kwok Wai, Kong Cham Sing, Ng In, and Lam Cheung were charged with having, on 10th December, being armed with revolvers, stolen \$145 and certain other property from

two persons on board a junk at Castle Peak Bay.

They pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C.) conducted the prosecution, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor; and Mr. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, appeared for the first defendant, instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson, solicitor.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. F. de J. Soares, C. C. Correia, W. P. Lambert, J. Ramsey, E. S. Gubbey, A. M. Baptista, and D. M. Graham.

The Attorney-General in opening the case, said that the alleged theft took place on a passenger junk which sailed every week from Hongkong to Fookwing, which is 40 or 50 miles away, beyond the New Territory. There were about eight altogether forming the crew and 17 or 18 passengers. The junk sailed in the afternoon. Castle Peak Bay was reached about midnight. Here, it was alleged, the defendants terrorised the crew and the passengers and robbed them, going on shore afterwards.

After evidence, the jury found the prisoners guilty, and his Lordship sentenced them each to seven years' hard labour and to get two whippings of 20 strokes each.

Tuesday, 21st January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

MANSLAUGHTER.

Pung Chun, a musician, was charged with having on 25th November, in a house in Hollywood Road, killed another musician.

He pleaded guilty of manslaughter.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C.) stated that he had considered with a great deal of care whether he should charge the prisoner with murder or manslaughter, and had come to the conclusion that it would not be safe to indite him with the capital offence. The fatal assault took place in a club in Hollywood Road where some Chinese musicians were in the habit of meeting in the evenings so that they might be hired. On this particular evening there were a number of these musicians in the club and after the night's work they sat down in a friendly way to supper, which began about two or half-past two o'clock in the morning and lasted till about half-past three. There was no doubt they consumed a fair amount of samshu and were not in full command of their intelligence after supper. In these circumstances a quarrel took place between the deceased man and the prisoner. The quarrel seemed to have arisen as to the question of who ought to have been employed in due rotation on some former occasion when a musician was summoned to go to some entertainment. The prisoner happened to have a knife and in the quarrel the deceased was stabbed. The only really independent evidence that could be got was that of a Chinese doctor who had a cubicle in the room and was undoubtedly sober. He stated that they made a great deal of noise at supper and he requested them to be quiet. According to him the prisoner did abuse the deceased man. There were two distinct fights—the first being with fists. There was a consensus of opinion that the prisoner warned the deceased that he had a knife if he wanted to fight. In the latter's dying deposition, he stated that defendant did so warn him. That was very similar to the statement made by the defendant himself. They were half-drunk, however, and they began to fight and prisoner stabbed his opponent in the abdomen. Had the man been properly attended to he might have been saved. But both were very heated, and deceased chased the prisoner some little distance away from the place and then sank down, his bowels began to protrude and practically there was no chance of his recovery. He was taken to the Hospital and attended to by Dr. Bell. Peritonitis supervened and he succumbed on the 2nd December. Prisoner, it was quite possible, was telling the truth when he said that he was in the back room and deceased came from the front room and challenged him to fight; that he told the other man he had better not fight as he had a knife; that

deceased said "I do not care whether you have a knife or not"; and that he himself was drunk, had no intention of stabbing him, and did not know he had stabbed him. Therefore the charge had been limited to manslaughter.

Prisoner, on being asked if he had anything to say, replied that he had no remarks to make, but would leave the matter in his Lordship's hands.

His Lordship said he thought the learned Attorney-General had exercised his discretion very fairly and wisely in only indicting him for manslaughter. He had read the depositions and was inclined to believe himself that although it was not an accident it was not a serious case of manslaughter. They were all the worse for liquor. He was inclined to believe that the prisoner did warn the deceased not to come near him as he had a knife in his hand. Still he had taken a life and must be punished for it. He thought in the circumstances it would be sufficient if he sentenced him to three years' hard labour.

ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

Yan Tin and Tang Tak were charged with having at Kowloon assaulted a cattle-dealer and robbed him of \$37 on 10th December last.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled:—Messrs. J. M. G. Pereira, E. J. M. de Carvalho, J. Hooper, J. W. C. Bonnar, J. A. Stopani, C. G. Engel, and J. H. Raptis.

The Attorney-General, in opening the case, said about six o'clock in the evening of the day in question the complainant was proceeding over the peninsula to Kowloon City, having in his possession \$37 realised by the sale of two cows. He was accompanied by a friend. When not far from Kowloon City four men armed with bamboos set upon them. Complainant was severely mauled and robbed. His companion happened to be walking a few paces in the rear when the attack was made and he escaped with a blow upon the shoulder. Information was given to the police, and the injured man was sent to Hospital. While in the police station early the next morning in connection with the affair, the complainant's companion saw the two prisoners being brought in under arrest for having been found near the scene of the occurrence under suspicious circumstances, and he at once identified them as being two of the robbers. They were further identified by the complainant when he came out of Hospital.

Evidence having been adduced,

The jury found the prisoners guilty as libelled, and his Lordship sentenced them each to seven years' hard labour and to receive a whipping of 20 strokes.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

TWO PRESENTATIONS.

All units of the Corps assembled at Headquarters at 10.15 a.m. on the 19th inst. for church parade. The muster was a very satisfactory one, and when H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, who was accompanied by his staff officers, had been received, the company, under Major Chapman, marched to the Cathedral, headed by the band, where the Rev. E. F. Cobbold preached an appropriate and eloquent sermon. On returning to the parade ground the men, who presented a very smart appearance, were drawn up in two ranks and inspected by the Major-General. Then followed an interesting ceremony in the presentation by His Excellency of the Colonial Long Service Medal to Major Chapman.

The company having been formed into three sides of a square, Major-General Gascoigne, addressing Major Chapman, said the act he had been requested to perform afforded him the keenest possible pleasure. So far as he was aware, this was the first occasion in the history of the Corps that one of its officers had received the Long Service Medal, and to be privileged to present that medal was an honour. Major-General Gascoigne expressed himself as not slow to appreciate. Major Chapman, he said, had seen twelve years' service as an officer in a Volunteer regiment at home, a Yorkshire regiment, and on coming out to Hongkong obtained a commission and had now completed in various grades an additional eight years' service, making altogether twenty years—a long period, truly, of

efficient and valuable work. Referring to the Corps, His Excellency said that in the three happy years he had now spent in the Colony not the least of the many events that had transpired was the great increase in the numerical strength and efficiency of the corps—a fact that had warranted its being allocated a place in the defence scheme of the Colony. The result was, of course, that in the event of the Garrison being mobilised the Volunteer Corps would have a particular work to do, one set task to perform. Continuing in this strain the Major-General said that the Volunteer Corps was not alone in the augmentation of numbers; the Garrison itself had considerably increased since he took over the command three years ago, and now it stood at only a few men short of the strength of the Garrison at Gibraltar. That the Corps had been included as a component part of such an important military station as this was a great honour indeed—an honour he was sure its members would be duly appreciative of, especially when it was remembered that of late the eyes of the authorities at home had been turned very frequently toward Hongkong. Referring again to the growing importance of the Corps, His Excellency, concluding, said it was highly gratifying to him to contemplate the position it had attained under him—not through him, he wished particularly to say, but under him—and his earnest hope was that this order of things would be maintained, and that each day would mark another step towards the attainment of perfection.

Major-General Gascoigne then pinned the Colonial Long Service Medal on Major Chapman's breast, and the latter responded with a salute. The parade, which His Excellency characterised as a very satisfactory one, was then dismissed.

An informal but equally interesting ceremony was afterwards gone through in the presentation by Major Chapman to Sergeant Gosnold, R.A., of a beautifully-chased silver salver subscribed for by the non-commissioned officers and men of the Field Battery, on the occasion of the worthy sergeant's approaching departure for home. In making the presentation Major Chapman gave expression to a sentiment that will be heartily re-echoed by all past and present members of the Field Battery, officers and men alike—that Sergeant Gosnold was one of the best instructors ever placed at the disposal of that unit of the Volunteer Corps. Sergeant Gosnold left for England on the 25th inst. by the *Malacca* and he carries with him the best wishes of all who at any time have come under his instruction.

RACING NOTES.

The hard ground is cracking up the ponies at an alarming rate. Hardly any appear on the course that do not go as if they were sore when they first come out and a good few go sore when they come in as well. The two favourites for the blue Riband appear to be the General's chestnut mare and Mr. Master's brown mare, and they seem to have about an equal number of supporters. The first-mentioned animal appears to take the work she gets as if she liked it, but she always has a very light weight on her back, and those who depend entirely on the weight may be disappointed in her when she has to carry 11st. 4lbs. for a mile and a half. However, the mare shows quality, which is almost indispensable for a race of that distance. Mr. Master's brown mare on the other hand distinctly lacks quality and she was probably as fit as she could be got a fortnight ago, and it's a big job to keep an underbred animal fit and up to concert-pitch for 6 weeks. Still she is a sound young mare, I should think, and has a chance, but if she wins the others must give her plenty of time to do it in.

Col. Hughes has a nice-looking bay, which has come in for a good deal of notice lately and should certainly win something at the Meeting. The Jardine stable have not been fortunate in the lot they have, but they have a nice-looking bay mare who looks as if she would do her best and always seems to finish her gallops strong. I rather liked Mr. Pontifex's little mare at one time, but she has been very lame now

for a fortnight or more, and all she can do is to walk round the course.

The Shanghai walers that are here are a different class of animal from those we have got and I fear that the allowances made to the latter in the mixed races will hardly bring them together. The programme has just been published and the entries are quite good, and from the entries in the mixed races it would seem that some owners are satisfied that their ponies can compete with the Shanghai walers with the allowance they are entitled to. As has been already realised, the question which has to be settled in the near future is what is going to be done in order to ensure a better class of pony being obtained for next year's racing. It is a very serious question for the Stewards to decide; we have been let in twice now and a subscriber who has been unlucky in his draw on each occasion must indeed be a sportsman to try his luck a third time unless he is satisfied that a more level lot of ponies can be obtained, for the bulk of this year's lot is indeed rubbish of the worst description. Unless we get rain soon the number of starters will get beautifully less, but every praise is due to the Clerk of the Course in doing what is possible to alleviate the jar by watering the course on galloping mornings.

VETERAN.

CRICKET.

"OVER 28" v. "UNDER 28."

This match on the Club ground on the 18th inst. ended in a draw, though the juniors only just succeeded in averting defeat, "Over 28" declaring their innings closed at 276 for 8 wickets and getting rid of 9 of their opponents for 188 runs. Scores:—

OVER 28.	
Major Wynne, c W. Dixon, b W. E. Dixon	26
Major Dorehill, c Shettle, b Fanshaw	5
Major Beresford-Ash, b Sumner	7
A. G. Ward, b W. E. Dixon	5
A. Mackenzie, c McKinley, b W. E. Dixon	76
Capt. Moberly, b W. E. Dixon	10
Capt. Krickenbeek, not out	69
Capt. Cadogan, b W. E. Dixon	9
F. C. France-Hayhurst, b W. E. Dixon	10
Capt. Rotherham, not out	36
Dr. Atkinson, did not bat	23
Extras	23
Total (for 8 wickets)	276

UNDER 28.	
Lt. Fanshawe, c Wynne, b Hayhurst	18
W. E. Dixon, R. N., b Mackenzie	14
Nimmo, c and b Hayhurst	4
W. E. Dixon, c Moberly, b Krickenbeek	28
Capt. Lapham, c and b Dorehill	26
W. Dixon, c Cooles, b Mackenzie	42
Sumner, b Krickenbeek	4
McKinley, st Beresford-Ash, b Hayhurst	7
Shettle, not out	17
J. Brown, c Mackenzie, b Hayhurst	6
R. J. Davies, not out	15
Extras	7
Total (for 9 wickets)	188

HONGKONG POLICE C.C. v. CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

The match between the Craigengower C.C. and the Hongkong Police was played at the Happy Valley on the 18th inst. and resulted in a victory for the former by 5 wickets and 9 runs. The following are the scores:—

HONGKONG POLICE C.C.	
L. S. Lander, c A. E. Asger, b Lammert	4
L. S. Quinn, c Basa, b Hartteam	22
P. C. Pitt, b Ford	4
P. C. Devney, c Rose, b Hartteam	1
Sergt. Langley, c Stuarts, b Ruttonjee	15
P. C. Gast, c Basa, b Ford	0
P. C. Aillington, b Ruttonjee	13
C. Ormsby (sub), not out	20
P. C. Jolley, b Ruttonjee	5
P. C. Brown, c Ruttonjee	2
P. C. Gibson, c Rose, b Hartteam	5
Extras	5
Total	91

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.	
J. L. Stuart, b Langley	2
J. P. Jordan, b Lander	13
E. Ford, c and b Langley	2
L. A. Rose, c Quinn, b Lander	32
R. Basa, c and b Devney	17
L. E. Lammert, not out	21
M. E. Asger, not out	6
H. Hartteam	
F. Rapp	
J. H. Ruttonjee	
A. E. Asger	
Extras	7
Total (for 5 wickets)	100

QUEEN'S COLLEGE C.C. v. CIVILIANS' CLUB.

A match was played at the Happy Valley on the 18th inst. between the Past and Present of the College and the Civilians' Club, and ended in an easy win for the former. The following are the scores:—

CIVILIANS' CLUB.

W. Goldenburg, c S. E. Ismail, b R. Pestonji	3
F. Long, c S. A. Ismail, b R. Pestonji	20
O. R. Chunnett, c Madar, b R. Pestonji	7
R. Abraham, b R. Pestonji	0
E. Abraham, b R. Pestonji	7
F. G. Chunnett, b R. Pestonji	0
C. Leykum, c Madar, b Ismail	2
G. H. Ruby, b Ismail	0
J. Chuey, b Ismail	0
F. K. Tata, not out	0
T. C. Johns, b Ismail	0
Extras	6
Total	45
QUEEN'S COLLEGE C.C.	
R. Pestonji, c and b Ruby	31
R. C. Witchell, l.b.w.b Ruby	4
J. H. Witchell, c Abraham, b Ruby	0
H. P. Madar, c O. Chunnett, b Ruby	2
S. A. Ismail, not out	3
S. E. Ismail, b Ruby	1
J. Pestonji, c F. Long, b Tata	10
A. R. Samy, not out	3
B. C. Wong,	
Tsui Chan Fan, } did not bat.	
Shi Shiu Kwong,	
Extras	9
Total (for 6 wickets)	90

FOOTBALL.

RUGBY.

A football match under Rugby rules was played in Happy Valley on the 17th inst. between the H.K.F.C. and H.M.S. Glory. Each side scored a try in the first half, which was very hotly contested. On changing ends, the Glory added another try to their score, and as the Club's attempts to draw level were unavailing up to the last few minutes of the game it looked as though they were to suffer defeat. But just on time a splendid try was gained which McMurtrie converted into a goal, thus winning the match for the Club. The Glory tries fell to the credit of Cornaby and Turle; those for the Club to Clark and Halifax.

H.K. F. C. v. THE NAVY.

Before an average attendance these teams engaged in a friendly fixture in the Happy Valley on the 18th inst. The weather was favourable, though a strong, gusty wind blew at times. The following teams lined up:—

Hongkong F.C.—C. T. Kew; W. H. Howard and W. H. Russell; L. C. Rees, G. B. Macdonald, R. A., and S. L. Jenkins; W. W. Clarke, J. D. Danby, T. Von der Pfordten; J. Norton-Kyshe, and J. E. Lee.

The Navy—Partington; Boyle and Bartlett; Crossman, Harrison and Thurston; M'Donald, Cornaby, Laycock, Franklin and Macguire.

Referee.—Lieut. Broadbent, R.N.

Five minutes late, the Club, having lost the toss, kicked off and immediately pressed, securing a touch near the left corner. Macguire had a dribbling run down the left, but Russell dispossessed him; the ball, however, was kicked across the Club goal-mouth, and Laycock meeting it shot past. Play was very scraggy, neither side being brilliant as regards combined movement. The Naval men put in a spell of pressing, which ended in the ball being sent past. From the bye-kick, the Club rushed to the other end, and secured a corner, which Lee placed at the back of the goal. The Navy were next dangerous, and the ball bounced about in dangerous proximity to the goal. Jenkins with a smart run and kick cleared. Offside robbed Macguire of a good chance; his shot, however, went into Kew's hands. Russell was proving himself one too many for the Naval left wing, who were sticking pluckily to their work. Lee spoiled a good run by a weak shot wide of the goal. Franklin was playing very well to Macguire, and the two gained a lot of ground. The referee was keeping a sharp look-out for rough play, and he penalised Russel for a very doubtful infringement. Another foul, this time in favour of the Club, was not of much advantage to them. A laugh was caused through Boyle dallying with the ball, and being neatly robbed by Danby. Kew saved a splendid shot from Cornaby, and Macguire with an overhead kick again sent in. Kew rushed out, upsetting Jenkins,

and fisted away. With a nice combined run the Club were soon at the Naval end, and Lee from the centre scored with a hard, low shot out of Partington's reach. Half-time was whistled immediately after with the score—Hongkong F. C. one goal; Navy, nil.

No time was lost over the interval, and from the centre kick the Club ran down and Partington effected a brilliant save at the bottom of the post. The best combined run of the game by the Naval forwards deserved a goal; but Cornaby, who was entrusted with the final kick, shot weakly past. Macguire, though knocked over, very pluckily stuck to the ball, and with a neat tip sent over Russell's head. He was not supported, however, and his hard work was wasted. Twice in succession Macguire had tries, but Kew was in very good form. On the next occasion they had better luck, and from a well judged pass from M'Donald, Laycock scored the equaliser with a hard ground shot. The effort was deservedly applauded. Succeeding play was equal, and not very interesting. Russell stopped a good combined run of the Naval forwards, and shortly after, being hard pressed by Macguire, kicked into touch. The Navy were pressing with great vigour and were value for a none goal lead. Just on the call of time M'Donald for the Navy scored with a beauty, and full time arrived immediately after with the score standing:—

Navy, two; Hongkong F.C., one goal.

H.K. F.C. "A" TEAM v. S. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR.

The return match between the above teams took place in the Happy Valley on the 20th inst. There was a moderate attendance of spectators. The first match the Club won by three goa's to nil. The spin of the coin being in favour of the Club, the Choir had to face a rather strong sun. Each side was a man short, and the teams lined up as follows:—

Hongkong F.C.—C. T. Kew; T. W. Hornby and W. G. Worcester; L. C. Rees, E. J. Davis, and L. J. C. Anderson; G. H. Edwards, J. A. Woodgates, Graham, and E. D. C. Wolff.

S. John's Cathedral Choir—W. Armstrong; C. H. P. Hay; A. Cunningham, Pte. Thomson, and A. G. Ward; H. Ruby, Pte. Gregory, Sergt. Hunt, Sergt. Adams, and G. W. Coster. Referee—Mr. F. Browne, Hongkong F.C.

In the first half the Choir team were mostly the aggressors, and from a hard centre by Adams, Gregory headed a splendid goal. In second half the Club shewed up better, Edwards and Wolff plying well in the forward line. The Club, however, were very weak in front of goal, and could not manage to score, thanks chiefly to the strong back play of Hay, who was in good form, and an excellent save by Armstrong. The Choir finally won by one goal to nil.

For the winners Hay and Gregory were most conspicuous, while the rest of the team, though showing good points at times, needed training.

The shield tie which was to have been played between the football teams of "C" Company, R. W. F., and the 19th Co., R. A., did not come off the R.A. scratching the game owing to inability to raise a team. The R.W.F. therefore walked over and filled up the vacancy with a match against a scratch team of the R.E. It would have been more courteous had the R. A. team given longer notice, as a number of spectators turned up and were disappointed. By the rules of the Shield competition the 19th C., R. A., forfeit \$3 to the Competition Funds.

A curious report comes from Seoul as to a French loan to China. A Frenchman arrived there last month, and consulted secretly on some matter with Li Yo-yok. The Frenchman declares himself that he is the representative of the Corean Company established at Paris which bought the right of the Yunnan Syndicate for the contract for the loan, and that he has the money ready to hand over on the security of the Customs revenue. Li Yo-yok and his friends are said to be inclined to accept the offer, but the British and Japanese Ministers are strongly opposed. Mr. Hagiwara, the Japanese chargé d'affaires, has applied for an audience with the Emperor, declaring that he had an urgent matter to report to him.

BOWLING.

HONGKONG CLUB v. NAVY.

The Club won this return match by 570 points. The bowling, with the exception of Ellis, White, Gerrard, Hinds, and Forbes, was poor, the somewhat loudly expressed enthusiasm of some of the Naval spectators appearing to have a disconcerting effect on the majority of the players.

CLUB

A. Ellis	790
R. J. Gerrard	779
E. H. Hinds	768
J. W. C. Bonnar	712
C. P. Chater	707
Lient. Owen, R.W.F.	684
J. Hooper	676
J. E. Lee	594

5,710

NAVY.

Mr. White	761
Lient. Forbes	750
Reinold	681
Solfleet	678
James	630
Drury	556
Dr. Riddle	541
Lient. Tremayne	540

5,140

THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN CHINA

The sixty-third annual meeting of this Society was held in Canton at the office of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. on the 15th inst. Present—Rev. R. H. Graves, M.D., D.D., President, in the chair; Vice-President, Hon. Robert M. Mc Wade, U. S. Consul; Rev. Messrs. S. G. Tope, G. W. Greene, R. E. Chambers, C. A. Nelson, A. Beattie, Ph.D., E. Dewstoe, W. Bridie, C. E. Patton, Dr. C. C. Selden, Messrs. Richard Hancock and E. Wyon, Dr. C. C. Chan, and Mr. J. M. Swan, M.D. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. S. G. Tope.

Dr. J. M. SWAN submitted annual reports. The treasurer's account showed that the income during the year had been \$4,681.55, including \$2,330.93 in subscriptions, and the expenditure \$2,011.38, leaving \$2,630.17 to be carried forward. In the Hospital account the income was \$12,743.30, and the expenditure \$12,690.06, including \$3,550 as the cost of new property, over and above the current expense. From the surgeon's report it appeared that the work of the Hospital had been markedly appreciated by the Chinese in the form of cordial expressions of goodwill and financial aid. The number of out-patients during the year was 20,677—men 15,720, women 4,957; in-patients 1,925—men 1,478, women 437; surgical operations, 2,347—men 1,865, women 482. Electric light had been installed and several operations carried through by means of the Rontgen rays.

The report was approved.

Rev. S. G. TOPE submitted the report of the Managing Committee. It bore that there had been no interruption of prosperity in the Hospital work. There had been an increase of in-patients, and the income had also reached a total larger than that of any previous year. The debt of \$3,850, increased by the purchase of property in 1900, had been cleared off, \$2,850 having been paid in as special subscriptions for this object. The property in question had been improved in many ways; a substantial three-story building now standing on the Eastern portion, and kitchens, store-rooms, and servants' quarters occupying the remainder of the new premises. This completes the scheme by which all kitchens, assistants' and servants' quarters are eliminated from the main block of buildings in the men's department. An earnest effort is being made to provide the Hospital with a larger supply of clothing and bedding, the provision heretofore having been wholly inadequate. A better water supply is also greatly needed. Suitable action had been taken in reference to the death of Dr. Kerr, and a tablet to his memory would be placed in the Hospital, its form to be in harmony with those already erected to his predecessors. The Hospital premises are clean and in good order. Larger and

better accommodation was needed for the main dispensary, and at an early date some repairs would be needed on the College ward. The estimates for the current year amounted to \$410,600.

This report was also adopted.

Dr. SWAN then read a report drawn up by the Managing Committee on the proposed establishment of a Medical College for South China. It was to the effect that in view of the increased interest in Western medicine and surgery, and the frequent enquiries made by the Chinese as to the opportunities in connection with the Hospital for the study of medicine, those most interested in the work of the Hospital felt that this important question of thorough education in Western hygiene, medicine, and surgery should be promptly, fully, and fairly met. There were few places to be found anywhere that would afford such excellent clinical advantages as were found in the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital. It was therefore proposed to establish a properly organised Medical College for men in connection with the Hospital, and to use every possible means to make it of a high standard. Among the propositions made in order that the scheme might take definite form, were that a special committee on organisation and equipment be formed with the Hon. Robert M. McWade, United States Consul, as chairman; that a general appeal be issued for subscriptions to the extent of \$50,000, to meet the expense of buildings, equipment, &c., the same to be owned and controlled by the Medical Missionary Society, that steps be taken at once toward providing professors and teachers for carrying on this work, the Chinese language being used as the medium of instruction; and that the special committee on organisation and equipment, associated with the Society's Managing Committee, be authorised to arrange for entrance examinations, lecture courses, tuition fees, and such rules and regulations as are necessary for the work of the College.

After full discussion of the question as a whole, the Society approved of the establishment of a Medical College as proposed. The various proposals were taken up *seriatim* and, after discussion, adopted. The special committee on organisation was appointed as follows:—Hon. Robert M. McWade, United States Consul (chairman), Mr. Richard Hancock, Mr. Fritz A. Brockelmann, Rev. C. A. Nelson, Mr. Lee Hung Ching, Mr. Chau Tung Sang, and Mr. John M. Swan, M.D. The item of \$1,500, for Medical College work was approved and added to the estimates.

Suitable resolutions were afterwards carried with reference to the deaths of Dr. J. G. Kerr and Rev. B. C. Henry, D.D.

The Board of Officers for the ensuing year was constituted as follows:—President, Rev. R. H. Graves, M.D., D.D.; Vice-Presidents, Hon. Robert M. McWade, U. S. Consul; Mr. C. Scott, H. B. M. Consul; Dr. Lang, Consul for Germany; Mr. G. D. Fearon, Hon. J. J. Keswick, Mr. Robert Shewan, Sir Thomas Jackson; Mr. F. D. Smith, Rev. H. V. Noyes, D.D., Rev. C. Bone, Rev. E. Z. Simmons, Rev. S. G. Tope. In the United States, Mr. T. E. Cunningham and Hon. Chas. Seymour; Treasurer, Mr. Edwin A. Stanton; Secretary, Mr. John M. Swan; Auditor, Mr. Richard Hancock; Managing Committee, Messrs. J. M. Swan, M.D., E. A. Stanton, and E. Wyon, Rev. E. Z. Simmons, and Rev. W. Bridie.

The customary votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

While the Imperial Court was in Hsian they got a fad of having their photos taken, although as a rule they do not care about being photographed. There was only one photographer in Hsian, a Cantonese, and he must have done a good business. Mr. Nichols (an American journalist, who last year was deputed by the New York *Christian Herald* to report for that paper on the distribution of the funds raised in the United States for the relief of the famine-stricken inhabitants of the provinces of Shensi and Shansi) secured several of these photographs, and although they cannot be described as works of art, the photographer having no idea of grouping, the likenesses are very good.

HONGKONG.

Apart from the fatal Chinese case of plague in the Colony last week, the only instance of communicable disease reported was one of diphtheria, in the City of Victoria.

Mr. G. W. Wolff, M.P. for East Belfast, arrived in Hongkong by the German mail yesterday. Mr. Wolff is a member of the well known shipbuilding firm of Harland and Wolff, Belfast.

The police report that on Thursday, Gunner Mullins, R. G. A., fell over the back verandah at Mount Austin Barracks and was killed. The funeral took place at Happy Valley the same day.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Peak Club held on the 20th inst. it was decided to erect a bungalow on the site lying between The Mount and Craigieburn and to lay out the adjacent ground as a garden, with croquet-lawns. Pending the erection of the permanent building, a substantial matted on the same site is to be provided for the purposes of the Club.

At a special meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 17th inst. the following resolution was passed, and is now published in the *Gazette*:—“That the Board declare the district comprising:—Jardine's Bazaar, Yee Wo Street, Irving Street, Keswick Street, Pennington Street, Blacksmith's Lane, and all the lanes leading from the above streets, as infected with plague.”

Mr. T. Takata, Judge of Appeal in the Court of Formosa, and Mr. K. Uishinchi, Public Procurator of the same Court, who are visiting the Colony for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the judicial arrangements in connection with the Magistrates' Court, had a seat on the bench yesterday forenoon beside Mr. F. A. Hazeland, and watched the conduct of public business for fully an hour.

The Chinese cruiser *Lei Lin*, now lying in the Harbour, had, we learn, a narrow escape from overturning on the 23rd inst. Her buoy cable, which was apparently not of sufficient length to allow for the action of tide and current, became warped round the cruiser's bow to such an extent as to cause her to heel over at a dangerous angle. It was only the parting of the cable, our informant says, that prevented her from capsizing.

Messrs. Hughes & Hough, auctioneers, on the 23rd inst. sold by public auction, alongside Queen's Statue wharf, the steam-launch *Kwong Woo*. Competition was fair, the bidding starting at \$2,000 and rising \$500 at a time till the figure reached \$4,000. The last bid was \$4,200, and for this sum the launch was knocked down to Filipino purchasers, who purpose trading her in Manila waters. The launch's measurements are:—Length, 62 feet; beam, 11 feet; depth, 5 feet. She has a coppered bottom.

One of the most successful variety entertainments that have taken place in the Colony this season was given in the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on the 18th inst. for the benefit of Miss Emmie Smith, late of the Empire Company. The house was crowded to the doors. Most interest, of course, centred in the appearances made by Miss Smith. Her first song, “Home, Dearie, Home,” was warmly encored, and she had to respond. Similarly her coon songs, with which Miss Smith has made a great hit during her stay here, called forth vigorous and hearty applause. The *beneficiaire* was presented with three beautiful bouquets of flowers and gracefully bowed her acknowledgments, which Mr. E. H. Banvard, the manager, expressed verbally in a few well-chosen sentences. As to the rest of the entertainment, it was of a high order of excellence. Mr. W. F. Cullen sang “Bid me to love,” in which his fine baritone voice was heard to great advantage. Miss Maud Albort also made a successful appearance as a ballad vocalist. The recitation of “Kissing Cup's Race” by Mr. G. J. Clarke was one of the tit-bits of the evening. Other artistes who contributed to an all-round first-class programme were Sergeant G. Simmers, R.E., Mr. J. Oxberry, Mr. F. G. Whittock, Sapper W. Dockree, R.E., Staff-Sergeant H. Ward, R.A.M.C., and Private W. Burgess, A.O.C., who proved a clever and amusing impersonator. An extra item in the shape of a phonograph performance was greatly appreciated.

Mr. A. H. Hollingsworth has been appointed an executive engineer in the Public Works Department.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Don. A. R. Elias assumed charge of the Peruvian Consulate on the 10th inst.

A Greek coal-trimmer, by name Elias Zachalarias, fell down an open hatch on the s.s. *Deconshire* on the 27th inst. and was killed.

Within the 24 hours ending at noon on the 17th inst. one fatal case of plague occurred in the Colony, the victim being a Chinese girl who lived at Sukunpoo.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week included 295 non-Chinese and 148 Chinese to the former institution and 79 non-Chinese and 1,872 Chinese to the latter.

A Chinese diver died suddenly whilst at work on the 23rd inst. in connection with the Naval Yard extension. He appeared all right before donning his dress and descending, but the usual signal that all was right not being received, he was hauled to the surface, when he was seen to be dead. He had been suffocated.

A junk was capsized on the 18th inst. in Tsatszemui Pass during a squall. There was a crew of five Chinese aboard. They were all thrown into the water, but were picked up by the steam launch *Lee Wah*, which was passing at the time. The capsized craft was towed ashore.

H.M.S. *Firebrand* left on the 16th inst. for Canton.

H.M.S. *Glory* left on the 20th inst. for the south.

H.M.S. *Plover* left for Singapore on the 21st inst. The French cruiser *Chasseloup Laubat* arrived from Swatow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that the efforts of Japanese experts to manufacture diphtheria serum in such a form that its use can be reduced to a simple formula, have been successful. The sale of the serum in Japan commenced this month.

According to a despatch from Nanchangfu, the capital of Kiangsi, H. E. Governor Li Hsing-jui has decided to establish a Conservation Bureau in that city, whose special duty will be to improve the Poyang Lake so as to make it suitable for navigation purposes.

The native papers up north have not yet abandoned hope that the Emperor himself may return to power. Thus the *Sin Wan Pao* urges that the Empress Dowager should herself take the initiative in this matter, lest foreigners should once more interfere and thus strike another blow at the independence of the Chinese government. When the Emperor was ill, he asked his “aunt” to act for him, and she out of love for her adopted son consented, notwithstanding her weight of years, once more to assume the burden of Empire. This is the meaning of the phrase “mother and son are of one heart,” so often lately quoted in this connection. This abdication of Kwang Hsu has been in force four years already. But now the Emperor's health is restored and all this notwithstanding the hardships of the past year. It would only be an act of filial piety for him, in view of his aunt's advanced age, to beg her to lay down the burden she willingly assumed for his sake.

The following is attributed by the *Shanghai Mercury* to a native paper:—During the recent tour of the Court, its way was heralded and cleared by a number of military officers on horse-back, who required all people near by to show their respects to the Royal travellers by kneeling down at the road-side until their Majesties had passed. When the Court arrived at Potingfu, among the spectators who stood near the head of a street were three foreign Missionaries in Chinese dress, who refused to kneel down, as required by the military officers. The military officers thought that they were Chinese subjects and were about to thrash them when they were fortunately prevented from doing so by some civil officials, who followed immediately behind. When the Empress-Dowager's sedan chair was borne past the place the Missionaries took off their caps to her Majesty. The old lady felt very much surprised at such a novel act and pulled aside the blind of her sedan chair to look at the foreigners with a smile.

Japan has been authorised by Corea to lay a submarine cable, and established wireless telegraphy between Fusen and Chemulpo.

There is in Shanghai a rumour, which is said to be well-founded, that the Hamburg-American Line has abandoned its intention of constructing docks etc. on the land recently purchased by it on the Poctung side, below the Cosmopolitan Dock.

Natiye news from Newchwang says that of the 400 Russian soldiers stationed at Yichuanliangtai, a place not far away from Newchwang, 40 have died of bubonic plague, and that the survivors have, on account of this great mortality, shifted their quarters to two small villages in the neighbourhood.

Troubles are reported from Newchwang between the British and American sailors of the *Alverine* and *Vicksburg*, on the one hand, and the Russians, on the other. Considerable friction in consequence has arisen between the authorities of the three nationalities. Foreigners in Newchwang generally attribute the trouble to the lack of tact on the part of the Russian Administrator.

A remarkable gathering of men-of-war is reported on the coast of Chekiang, between Ningpo and Wenchow, says the *N.-C. Daily News*. The Italian vessels are in Nimrod Sound, this part of the coast being a favourite haunt of the Italians. The German first-class cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* is also in those waters for the purpose of drilling landing parties. The French gunboat *Lion* has been in Taichou Bay, her mission being apparently to support M. Reynaud's efforts to obtain a concession at Haimen. The interest that foreign men-of-war take in the coast and harbours of Chekiang is doubtless very flattering to the native authorities.

The Nanking correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* makes the following charitable remarks about the late Li Hung-chang's funeral rites:—"There will be enough money spent on sending Li Hung-chang down to Hell to pay a good slice of the indemnity. It is possible that this will cost hundreds of thousands or even millions. Khufu who built the Great Pyramid of Egypt exhausted the resources of his country during his reign in getting ready for death. The officials of China exhaust a great deal of the resources of the Empire in getting ready to meet Satan. . . . Jesus said it was harder for a rich man to get into Heaven than for a camel to get through a needle's eye. Men of the Li Hung-chang stamp don't try to get to Heaven. They want to get through Hell by bribery and become gods, so as to perpetuate their robbing the people. 'From their coffin they put forth a hand; even while dead they want money.' . . . It seems that it takes about a bone of a soldier or a poor man for each brick in a temple. China spends 30 per cent. of her resources in this devil worship." Can this correspondent, we wonder, be a missionary? If so, his manner of reference to native respect for the dead is likely to be somewhat unpopular with those whom he wishes to convert.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 24th January.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 24th January.—The prices are the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White..... \$8.50 to \$8.55 per
do. 2, White..... 7.55 to 7.60 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.90 to 5.95 "
do. 2, Brown ... 5.75 to 5.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.38 to 8.42 "
do. 1, White..... 7.40 to 7.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.80 to 5.85 "
do. 2, Brown ... 5.65 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy..... 12.50 to 12.55 "
Shekloong 10.25 to 10.30 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 24th January.—There is no change in the position of the market. Quotations are:—
Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.65 to 2.70
" Round, Good quality 3.82 to 3.88
" Long 4.00 to 4.05
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.90 to 2.94
" Garden, " No. 1 3.33 to 3.37
" White 3.85 to 3.90
" Fine Cargo 4.15 to 4.20

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

For Imperial German Mail steamer *Prinzess Irene*, sailed on the 8th January. For Singapore:—111 rolls matting. For Aden:—1 case curios. For Odessa:—200 boxes cassia. For Fiume:—200 bales broken cassia. For Genoa:—350 bales waste silk, 155 bales raw silk, 5 boxes staranised oil. For New York:—36 boxes staranised oil. For Antwerp:—193 cases of all-nuts, 54 bales feathers, 45 rolls matting, 16 cases Chinaware. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—10 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam:—100 casks ginger, 50 boxes Chinaware, 4 bales rattancore. For Rotterdam:—201 casks ginger, 107 rolls matting, 18 boxes Chinaware, 4 cases lids. For Rotterdam/Amsterdam/Hamburg:—50 boxes cassia, 41 roll mats, 3 boxes preserves. For London:—275 rolls mats, 3 boxes blackwoodware, 1 box Chinaware, 1 box silkpiecegoods. For Bremerhaven:—12 boxes Chinaware, 1 box blackwoodware. For Bremen:—180 rolls matting, 10 cases curios. For Lisbon, 43 cases Chinaware, 1 bag dried fruit. For Hamburg:—70 cases bristles, 41 bales canes, 30 boxes paper, 13 boxes feathers, 12 boxes human hair, 10 boxes Chinaper, 9 cases curios, 1 cases silkware. For Copenhagen:—500 boxes cassia, 21 rolls mats.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th January.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$77.00 to \$119.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.20
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	2.90 to 3.55
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.60
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40 to 2.70
58 to 60 "	3.15 to 4.10
64 to 66 "	4.50 to 4.90
Fine.....	5.25 to 7.30
Book-folds 4.25	to 6.25
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.78 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.....	1.70 to 1.95
7 lbs. (32 "), "	2.00 to 2.30
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.95 to 2.15
7 lbs. (32 "), "	2.80 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 3.00	to 3.55
Drills; English—40 yds., 13 ¹ / ₂ to 14 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 ¹ / ₂ to 8 lbs.	1.50 to 5.00
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Brocades—Dyed	— to —
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DAMASKS

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	— to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in.	0.21 to 0.26

W HANDKERCHIEFS—IMITATION SILK

	per dozen
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COLLENS

	per yard
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Spanish Stripes—Sundry chps.	0.62 ¹ / ₂ to 1.70
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Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00
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	per piece
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Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.35 to 8.10
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Assorted.....	6.45 to 8.20
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Camlets—Assorted.....	12.00 to 30.75
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Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	11.00 to 17.00
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Assorted.....	— to —
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Orleans—Plain	— to —
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	per pair
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	2.50 to 4.00
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METALS

	per picul
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Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
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Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.30 to —
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Swedish Bar	6.40 to —
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Small Round Rod	4.75 to —
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Hoop 1 to 11/2 in.	5.25 to —
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Wire 15/25	8.75 to —
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Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
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Pig Iron	35.50 to 36.50
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Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop</

MEMOS.—Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 27th instant. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 4th February.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	£620. L'don, £64.
Chinn & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	nominal.
Natl. Bank of China	£8	\$27, buyers
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Foun. Shares...	£1	£1.
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£20	£20.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	£15	£38, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	£20	£20.
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$9.20, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$147, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco) Invest. Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$14, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11.
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$52, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$21, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	£50	£50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	£10	\$184, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$305, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	£5	£8, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	£50	£186, sellers
Hongkong Ice.....	£25	£195.
H. & K. Wharf & G...	£50	£96, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	£50	£175.
H. & W. Dock	£50	£282.
Insurance—		
Canton	£50	\$150, sales
China Fire	£20	\$90, sales & sellers
China Traders'	£25	£55, buyers
Hongkong Fire	£50	£370, sales
North China	£25	Tls. 185, buyers
Straits	£20	nominal.
Union	£50	£342.
Yangtsze	£60	£180.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	£100	£184, exdiv., sellers
Humphreys Estate...	£10	£14, sellers
Kowloon Land & B. West Point Building	£30	£33.
Luzon Sugar	£50	£623, exdiv., sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	£100	£27, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	£525, buyers
Jeletu	£5	£44, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ld.	25c.	4 cents.
Olivers Mines, A. Do. B...	£5	nominal.
Punjom	£4	nominal.
Do. Perference...	£10	£44, buyers
Raubs	£1	£1.25, sellers
New Amoy Dock	18	£8.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	£6	£30.
Powell, Ld.	£50	£56.
Robinson Piano Co., Ld.	£10	£9.
Steamship Cos.—	£50	£50, nominal
China and Manila ...	£50	£5, sellers
China Mutual Pref. Do. Ordinary	£40	£5, sellers
Do. Bónus	£10	£10.
Douglas Steamship H., Canton and M...	£5	£7. 10s.
Indo-China S. N.	£50	£45, sellers
Shel. Transport and Trading Co.....	£15	£37. 1, sellers
Star Ferry	£10	£2, sales
Tebrau Planting Co...	£5	£1.
United Abestos	£4	£9. 1, sales
Do	£10	£1.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	£5	£20, exdiv., sellers
Watkins, Ld.	£10	£10.
Watson & Co., A. S.	£10	£15, sellers

SHANGHAI, 15th January (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). INSURANCE.—Marine. Yangtszes were placed at \$130 and are wanted. Fire. & rocks are quiet. Chinas are offering at quotation. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Cash sales were made at Tls. 103-1-0, market closing steady at latter rate. Settlements were made for 31st instant, at Tls. 100, February 102, March 105, 103, May 10, June 108, July 109, 107.50, 107.75. China Mutual S. N. Co. and Shell Transport shares are offering. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares were placed at Tls. 9.60, 9.70 and 9.75 cash and are offering at cheaper rates. March shares fetched Tls. 10.00, and 9.60, April 10.00, May 10.15. Forward shares are offering. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Shares changed hands at Tls. 260.00 and Tls. 262.50, cum div. and 2.5.00 and 257.50, ex div. of Tls. 7.00 paid on 10th instant. Settlements were made for 31st instant at Tls. 265, 262.50, cum div., and 255, 252.50, 255, 257.50, ex div., February 266.25, cum div., March 270, 267.50, cum div. and 262.50, 263, ex div., April 272.50, cum div., May 275, cum div., June 275, cum div., 270 and 271, ex div., July 280, cum div. and 275, ex div. Cash market closes firm at Tls. 277.50. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares sold at Tls. 300 and close steady at this figure. LANDS.—Shanghai Land shares have risen to sales at Tls. 112.50 after an intermediate sale at Tls. 105, the sudden jump being occasioned by strong demand and unwillingness of holders to sell out. INDUSTRIAL.—Pulps sold at Tls. 106 cash and 31st inst. Ices changed hands at Tls. 28 and are offering. Tugs & CARGO BOATS are quiet. MISCELLANEOUS.—Langkats sold at Tls. 342.50 and 340 for cash and 31st inst. Settlemen's were made for March at 350, June 365 and 360. Sumatra Tabacco shares changed hands at Tls. 40-42.50 for May; cash shares are offering. Centrals were taken at £20 and Telephones at Tls. 60. Weeks & Co. Ltd. issue their prospectus to take over the business of T. Weeks and Co. of this port with a capital of \$200,000, divided into 10,000 shares of \$21 each. The purchase price of the concern is \$200,000, of which £85,600 will be paid to the vendors in cash and the residue by the allotment to vendors of 5,720 fully paid up shares. The public are invited to subscribe for 4,000 shares; payment of \$10 is to be made on application to the Hongkong Bank and a further \$10 on allotment. Subscription lists close on 25th inst. DEBENTURES.—Shanghai Land Investment 5 per cent. were placed at Tls. 95, 5½ per cent. at Tls. 96 and 6 per cent. at Tls. 102 and 103, all cum accrued interest. Chinese Government "E" Loan Bonds changed hands at Tls. 252.50.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. FRIDAY, 25th January.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1 10
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.31
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.35
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.87
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44
Credits, 60 days' sight	44
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	136
Bank, on demand	137
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	136
Bank, on demand	137
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	10
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	9
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	4
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	111
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	13
ON SAIGON.—On demand	11
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.78
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	55.90
BAR SILVER per oz.	25

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

January—

- 18, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.
- 18, C. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
- 18, Chinkiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 18, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
- 18, Fausang, British str., from Moji.
- 18, Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 18, Invermay, British ship, from Cardiff.
- 18, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Chefoo.
- 18, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 18, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 18, Norria, German bark, from Cardiff.
- 18, R. Dickinson, Brit. str., from Balik Papan.
- 18, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 18, Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 18, Tartar, British str., from Vancouver
- 18, Wingsang, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
- 19, Banca, British str., from London.
- 19, Glenshiel, British str., from Foochow.
- 19, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.
- 19, Parramatta, British str., from Bombay.
- 19, Patroclus, British str., from Moji.
- 19, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 19, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Chefoo
- 20, Erica, German str., from Singapore.
- 20, Haliotis, Dutch str., from Palembang.
- 20, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhui.
- 20, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 20, Mexican Prince, British str., from Pulo Sambo.
- 20, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
- 20, Perla, British str., from Manila.
- 20, Silesia, German str., from Kobe.
- 20, China, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 20, Ichanz, British str., from Wuhn.
- 20, Tantalus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 21, Chasseloop Laubat, Fr. cr., from Swatow.
- 21, Elita Nossack, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
- 21, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 21, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 21, Peleus, British str., from Foochow.
- 21, Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Amoy.
- 21, Store Nordiske, Dan. str., from Shanghai.
- 21, Benalder, British str., from Singapore.
- 21, Babelsberg, German str., from Canton.
- 21, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 22, Arara, British str., from New York.
- 22, Amoy, German str., from Manila.
- 22, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 22, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
- 22, Yushun, British str., from Shanghai.
- 22, Hanyang, British str., from Singapore.
- 23, Antonio McIlleod, Amr. str., from Iloilo.
- 23, Brooklyn, U.S. flagship, from Amoy.
- 23, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 23, Hong Wan I, British str., from S'pore.
- 23, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 23, Malacca, British str., from Foochow.
- 23, Monadnock, U.S. monitor, from Canton.
- 23, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.
- 23, Peiyang, German str., from Saigon.
- 23, Razbonik, Russian cruiser, from Foochow.
- 23, Sado Maru, Japanese str., from Yokohama.
- 23, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 23, Theodor Wille, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
- 23, Store Nordiske, Danish str., from a cruise.
- 23, Chingwo, British str., from Singapore.
- 23, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 24, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.
- 24, Calliope, British str., from Mororan.
- 24, Hamburg, German str., from Hamburg.
- 24, Lothair, Italian baque, from Callao.
- 24, Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
- 24, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 24, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
- 24, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
- 24, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 24, Thea, German str., from Haiphong.
- 25, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
- 25, Carinthia, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Caledonien, French str., from Yokohama.
- 25, Chinkiang, British str., from Canton.
- 25, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
- 25, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
- 25, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
- 26, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 26, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 26, Ness, British str., from Moji.
- 26, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
- 26, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 26, Elita Nossack, German str., from Canton.
- 26, Yushun, British str., from Canton.

January— DEPARTURES.

18. Bengal, British str., for Europe.
 18. Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
 18. Ise, German str., for Saigon.
 18. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 18. Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
 18. Lienshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 18. Mara Kolb, German str., for Moji.
 18. Michael Jebsen, German str., Haiphong.
 18. Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Amoy.
 18. Trym, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 18. Whampoa, British str., for Swatow.
 19. Chihli, British str., for Iloilo.
 19. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 19. Haian, French str., for Hoihow.
 19. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 19. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 19. Heinrich Menzell, Ger. str., for Kudat.
 19. Huan, British str., for Amoy.
 19. Indeendent, German str., for Swatow.
 20. Changsha, British str., for Kobe.
 20. Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 20. Glory, British battleship, for Singapore.
 20. Hikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 20. Kwoonglee, British str., for Canton.
 20. Parramatta, British str., for Shanghai.
 20. Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 21. Amara, British str., for Kobe.
 21. Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 21. Glenshiel, British str., for Singapore.
 21. Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 21. Plover, British gunboat, for Singapore.
 21. Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 21. Taishun, American str., for Shanghai.
 21. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 22. Banca, British str., for Shanghai.
 22. Cam, British str., for Rangoon.
 22. Elita Nossack, German str., for Canton.
 22. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 22. Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 22. Hinsang, British str., for Moji.
 22. Hoihao, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 22. Indrapura, British str., for Portland (Or.).
 22. Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
 22. Kvarven, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 22. Kweiyang, British str., for Saigon.
 22. Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 22. Lyeeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 22. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 22. Patroclus, British str., for London.
 22. Store Nordiske, Danish str., for a cruise.
 22. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 22. Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.
 22. Trym, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 22. Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23. Afidi, British str., for New York.
 23. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 23. Hailoong, British str., for Pakhoi.
 23. Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 23. Mexican Prince, Brit. str., for Singapore.
 23. Peleus, British str., for London.
 23. Phra Chom Klao, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 23. Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Langkat.
 23. Tailee, German str., for Takow.
 23. Wuhu, British str., for Touron.
 23. Yushun, British str., for Canton.
 24. Benalder, British str., for Nagasaki.
 24. Catherine Apcor, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
 24. China, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
 24. Dirigo, American ship, for S. Francisco.
 24. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 24. Hamburg, German str., for Shanghai.
 24. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Chefoo.
 24. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 24. Silesia, German str., for Calcutta.
 24. Store Nordiske, Dan. cable str., for a cruise.
 24. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 24. Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 25. Chingwo, British str., for Tacoma.
 25. Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 25. Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 25. Hue, French str., for Kwongchauwan.
 25. Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Locklight, British str., for Singapore.
 25. Malacca, British str., for London.
 25. Perla, British str., for Manila.
 25. Sado Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 25. Tefartos, German str., for Saigon.
 25. Theodor Willie, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 26. Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.
 26. Aissa Craig, British str., for Moji.
 26. Babelsberg, German str., for Nagasaki.
 26. Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 26. Fansang, British str., for Moji.
 26. Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Saigon.
 26. Marie Jebsen, German str., for Saigon.
 26. Taksang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED:

Per *Hailoong*, from Pakhoi, &c., the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Victoria and Mr. W. E. Reiners.
 Per *Haitan*, from Foochow, etc., Misses McInness (two), Messrs. McInness, K. Ololop and Rev. Maier.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Capts. A. P. Gilmour, Mitchell and Burns, Miss Albert, Messrs. P. Davies, R. S. Varley, C. D. Wilkinson, Komi Karanja, G. Fort, D. Smith, T. Turnbull, S. Komor, W. T. Guy and A. Bastien; for Singapore, Mr. A. K. Rhoden; A. London, Messrs. A. Robertson, J. Horrocks, for Spiers and S. Deacon.

Per American Mail, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. E. Macey, Dr. and Mrs. M. Soule, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. McHenry, Master H. McHenry, Rev. J. E. Snock, Messrs. H. G. Oppmann, Aubrey Thomas, M. Schirmizk, J. J. Connell, G. M. Taggart, W. L. Sears, J. Cleppien, G. McBain and H. E. Barber.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Iloilo, Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie and Capt. Cannass.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. T. A. Davies, L. Bouteau, J. Morrison and Mrs. Nicholson.

Per *Tartar*, from Vancouver for Hongkong, Mr. W. H. Leonard; from Yokohama, Mr. A. C. W. Kirby; from Kobe, Mr. M. D. Howell, Major P. Connelly; from Nagasaki, Miss E. Jensen, Mrs. M. Wood and Mr. E. A. Griffiths; from Shanghai, Messrs. R. S. Hermani, A. Ebuhim and Van Corbach.

Per *Tamba Maru*, from Europe, etc., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mancell and three children, Mrs. Basil Grey, Mrs. Marshall, Sir John Hall, Lieut. W. L. Campbell, Capt. Jackson, Messrs. F. W. Warburton, L. Bramall, E. S. Campbell, Reader, J. Brewer, W. Smith; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. R. Chester and child, Drs. K. Hasegawa and J. Asayama, Messrs. R. Hara, F. W. Crane, Ed. d'Almeidin; for Yokohama, Dr. S. Uchida, Messrs. Y. Miura, R. Kagami, H. Le Gros, R. Inglett.

Per *Maidzuru Maru*, from Anping, &c., Misses Jenkin and Tibals.

Per *Catherine Apcor*, from Calcutta, &c., Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Eyre and Mr. G. Parker.

Per *Parramatta*, for Hongkong, from London, Mrs. Hamilton and three children, Mrs. Lewis and four children, Mrs. Arnold and child, Mrs. Doherty, Mr. and Mrs. Lamble, Lieut. T. White, R. N., Messrs. Lowe, Greatrex, A. C. Boxer and H. F. Campbell; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. T. Macleod, Houston, Horner and Staff-Surg. Macnamara; from Bombay, Mrs. B. nton and Mr. Rustonji; from Colombo, Miss Cruickshank; from Singapore, Mr. Martin; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Lowrie, Misses Miller and La Tonteine and Mr. Boyd; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Houpas, Messrs. Robertson, R. N., C. B. Edmonston and Col. Radford; from Singapore, Miss Iversen; for Manila, from London, Mr. Colquhoun; for Yokohama, from Calcutta, Mr. F. W. Wakefield.

Per *Silesia*, from Kobe, Mr. Fullert.

Per *Hoihao*, from Pakhoi, &c., Misses Smith, Ster and Haver.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clapp, Miss Gorbolewsky, Messrs. Lyon, C. G. Klinck, Oscar Batt, Davidson, D. Holmes and F. Hudson.

Per *China*, from Trieste, Mrs. Witterich and Mr. Roshel.

Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Messrs. Hyde and Wandres.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Dr. E. Merchant, Messrs. C. A. Young and A. E. Cummings; from Yokohama, Mgr. Lach; from Kobe, Messrs. J. D. Ballance and F. Schmitz; from Shanghai, Mrs. Pratt and child, Mrs. Crombie and infant, Capt. C. F. Pope, Messrs. W. Puddepha, M. Omari, S. A. Zahar, C. F. Roach, Aitken, S. Laurence, McGee, E. B. S. Kattame, F. O. Wannick, J. S. Duff and F. H. Crossley.

Per *Hailoong*, from Swatow, Messrs. C. H. Best and Skeller.

Per *Malacca*, from Foochow, Mr. and Mrs. A. Becket, Miss Mayers, Mr. Rayden.

Per *Sado Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Miss Vosper, Messrs. Edward Jonsberg, Alex.

Ross and Y. Hayashi, Mrs. and Miss Ito and Mrs. W. Yamamura; for Singapore, Mrs. Nisbet; for Sydney, Mr. James E. Gibson; for Port Said, Consul K. Iijima and Mr. N. Fukuda; for Marseilles, Mrs. and Miss E. Herb, Messrs. F. Herb, A. J. Payne, Dr. J. F. Molyneux and Chief Surgeon J. Nakagawa; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Barr and two children, Messrs. J. H. Woollocob and A. B. Baine.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Birdsall, Miss McDonnell, Messrs. Levi J. Israel, Louis Basch, J. P. Gearlops, A. Verlonge Goens, M. Landers, G. W. Mullar, F. Gutierrez, F. L. Basset, A. K. Koehler, Leducio Deionisis, S. Ogawa, R. Fujikawa, F. Tanaka, S. Hirose and Cornelius Moots.

Per *Hamburg*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Miss A. Johannsen; from Southampton, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. A. G. Wise, Messrs. E. W. Wolff, G. T. Wilson, F. Urquhart and A. McMillan; from Genoa, Mrs. van Aalst, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Michael; from Naples, Miss Worthely and Miss Osborne; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Drayton; from Singapore, Rev. and Mrs. F. Chalk, Messrs. A. F. Cowrie, F. A. Thomas, A. Johnstone, M. Siva and F. Magill.

DEPARTED:

Per *Kasuga Maru*, for Japan, Mrs. W. Forste, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ray and two children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur, Misses V. and T. Arthur, Miss Thyme, Commissioner H. C. Ede, Messrs. G. L. Hardy, Wm. Wolff, P. C. Carter, W. T. Wheatty, B. I. Hibbert, Miss K. Moraoka and infant, Capt. Mihara, Messrs. T. Isomura, M. Ishibashi, Y. Kimoto, T. Ota, D. Oda and T. Shibata.

Per *Bengal*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. D. Smith; for Bombay, Messrs. M. A. Karim and K. Hoosenally; for Brindisi, Dr. and Mrs. Milan Soule, Miss E. W. Beaver, Messrs. C. H. Morrison, R. W. Stimson and R. A. Lemcke; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marston and Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. A. K. Rhoden; for London, Messrs. A. Robertson, James Horrocks, A. Spiers and S. Deacon.

Per *Parramatta*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Lieut. King, Capt. Farrow, Sergt. Berry, Messrs. Kirilloff, J. Morrison and H. B. Defoer; from Singapore, Mrs. Tersen; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Honpas, Col. Radford, Messrs. R. W. Robertson and C. B. Edmonston; from London, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lowrie, Misses C. Miller and La Fontaine and Mr. A. R. Boyd; for Yokohama, from Calcutta, Mr. F. W. Wakefield.

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